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History

of

POLK COUNTY

FLORIDA

NARRATIVE AND BIOGRAPHICAL

By

M. F. HETHERINGTON

THE RECORD COMPANY—PRINTERS
SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
1928

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LAKELAND, FLORIDA

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A. H. CAWSTON

History of Polk County, Florida

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To Those Who Have Gone Before—

To the men and women who sought out this land, and finding it as it came from the Creator's hand, declared it good; who, in the loneliness of the darkling woods, worked out their salvation, dreaming, perhaps, of the better day that civilization's miracle would bring; who builded better than they knew, and laid the strong and sure foundation upon which there rests today the superstructure of a great and splendid progress; who never wavered in their simple faith, as they planted the seed and tended the tree which has been brought to splendid fruition—

To Those Who Are "Carrying On"—

Who mayhap are weary with the heat and burden of the day—who, beset with perplexities and anxieties, are hesitant as to what the future may hold; who may find from the record of those who toiled in days agone, amid conditions so much more adverse, renewed hope and inspiration; that, seeing the foot-prints on the sands, left by those hardy pioneers, they may take heart again, and by their toil, their perseverance, and their accomplishments, there may be builded in this fair land more stately mansions, spiritual and material, ever "as the swift seasons roll"—

These simple annals are inscribed—
With hope for the future—
With pride in the past!

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FOREWORD

THE history of Polk County is not replete with spectacular incident. It is in the main a simple record of many individuals working independently, though harmoniously, toward the end of the transformation of a fine section of country from the wilderness stage to its present splendid development. The intention of this work has been to present, in chronological order, such incidents as may enable the reader to follow the processes of that development, and to note the progress that has been continuous and consistent. These incidents, some of which may seem unimportant, serve to illustrate the conditions prevailing at the time of the happening described—to afford a mental view of some of the scenes, and to recall some of the actors in the drama of the development of Polk.

In connection with any undertaking, a glance at the finished work often conveys no conception of the labor involved. To secure the data for this History much effort and research have been expended. Information has been procured from many widely scattered sources; old residents have been interviewed; old records have been searched; literally thousands of newspapers have been read, some of them so old that the paper on which they were printed would scarcely sustain its own weight, and had to be handled with the utmost care. Often fragments of a printed page had to be pieced together before it could be read.

A complete record, covering the entire life of Polk County, since it became a political division, is impossible to produce. Often the trail that leads to the forgotten past is very dim; sometimes it disappears altogether. There are periods in the existence of the county, and in that of some of its communities, of which there is no record extant. It is hoped, however, that enough has been salvaged and put into this permanent form to furnish a fairly comprehensive and connected narrative of the conquest of Polk by the forces of civilization.

A great mass of material has been unearthed, much of which, because of the limitations of this volume, it is impossible to use. Much has been reluctantly omitted; that which seems most important is presented herewith. It is not unlikely it may be thought by some that important things have been omitted, and sometimes trivial things included. But who is to say what is important? That is dependent upon the individual viewpoint. A paragraph telling that her son was on the Honor Roll in his class some years ago is of more interest to a mother than the story of the passage of a million-dollar bond issue. A matter not worthy of passing notice at this time was momentous forty years ago. In its issue of January 31, 1885, the *Tampa Tribune* devoted nearly two columns of its first page to an account of the opening in Tampa of a skating rink. What notice would such a happening receive today?

The beginnings of places and things are always of interest and importance, and these have had more attention than the happenings or the persons of later years. Some things have been purposely omitted. Petty strifes, sordid murders; unfortunate peculations; personal tragedies—there has been no inclination to bring these out of the oblivion that has mercifully enveloped them.

There has been an effort to treat each community as its importance and the historical interest attaching to it might justify. Some places, naturally, furnish more historical material than others; some cities or towns have more complete records than others; the people of some places have been more interested and more helpful in furnishing information or material than those in others. Certainly there has been no intentional neglect or discrimination as regards either communities or individuals.

The task of compiling this History has been arduous, and, in some of its phases, tedious; yet it has been an interesting and most pleasant labor. For some weeks the author has lived with those who made this History; thrilled with them, as the railroad, mighty factor of progress, slowly came toward them, and their hearts stirred with anticipation of the great changes to come; sorrowed with them when disaster overtook them and wrought ruin on the groves into which they had put their very hearts and hopes; rejoiced with them when some signal accomplishment sped them on the way to prosperity. To him these people have become very real; and he feels a glow of friendship for those who fought the good fight and kept the faith amid the hardships and discomforts of the long ago.

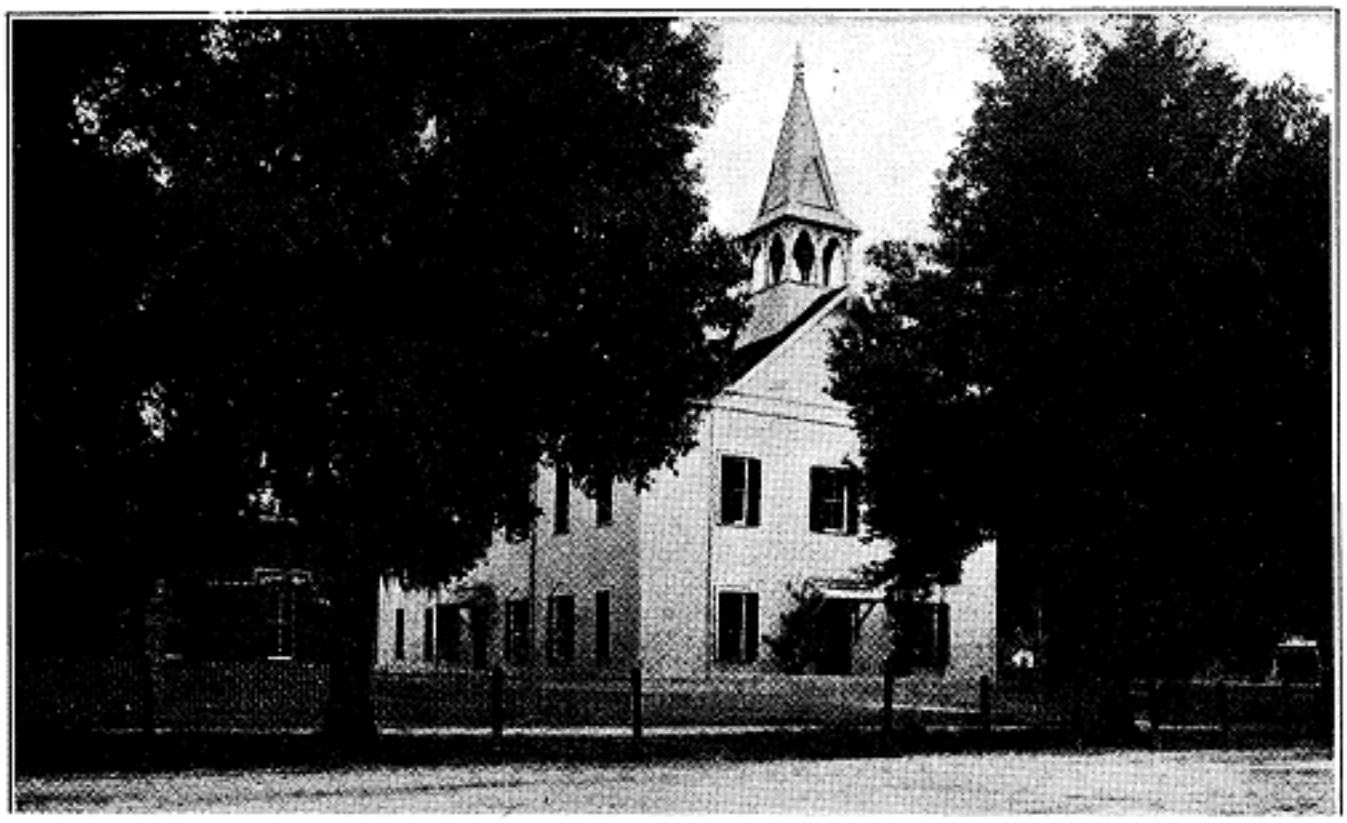
Grateful acknowledgment for assistance rendered is extended to each of the members of the Advisory Board; to the newspapers of the county, which, without exception, have been helpful and more than kind; to Messrs. H. J. Drane, John M. Keen and D. H. Sloan, of Lakeland, Frank Fuller, of Auburndale, E. B. Simmons, of Lutz (formerly of Fort Meade), for valuable information relative to life in the early days in the county; and to many other citizens, who have taken a kindly interest in the work and have given it aid and encouragement.

HISTORY OF POLK COUNTY FLORIDA

Part I

NARRATIVE

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Upper—Old County Court House, Bartow.
Lower—Present County Court House, Bartow.

History of Polk County, Florida

Chapter I.

The primal stages of the occupancy of Polk County by the white man is veiled in the mists of the years, and we can catch but fleeting and uncertain glimpses of these early scenes. There were some stragglers from the outskirts of civilizatioin almost, if not quite, a hundred years ago. E. S. Whidden, city clerk of Mulberry, states that his father was born in this county in 1841, and that his grandfather had lived in the county, and in other parts of South Florida, many years before that event. These few pioneers, and others who came after them, were hardy souls, who sought the adventure of a wild country, which provided a paradise for the hunter and fisherman, and which afforded freedom from the restraint and conventions of civilization. A little later soldiers who participated in the Indian wars, and who grew attached to the country during their period of service, with the return of peace elected to remain in the land they had learned to love. Some of them went back to their homes in the northern part of this State, or in other States, and loading a few effects upon wagons, usually drawn by oxen, returned with their families to make rude homes in the wilderness. Others were attracted by the benefits offered by the Government, which provided free land and other bounty for those who became bona fide settlers of the new country. It is hinted, and there may be some truth in the suggestion, that occasionally a fugitive from justice would seek refuge and freedom among these wilds. Some of the "first families" of many lands have been built on such foundations.

Whatever the varying motives that impelled them, gradually, but with increasing frequency, people drifted in, and established rude habitations on the shores of the beautiful lakes and amid the wooded areas of what is now the county of Polk. The desire for human companionship would tend eventually to the location of several of these dwellings within a radius of a few miles, and thus would be formed a settlement. A man's "next-door neighbor" might live a mile, or five miles, distant; but for the day and the conditions that was close enough.

Aside from the inconveniences of pioneer life—and these settlers did not regard these inconveniences in the light of hardships, as would people of this later day—existence was far from unpleasant. Life was simple, and great effort was not required to meet its demands. A patch of sweet potatoes furnished a staple article of diet, as well as a coffee substitute—the potato, cut up into small cubes and dried, then parched and ground, providing a not unsatisfactory beverage. Another patch—of cane—gave either "long-sweetening," as the syrup was called, or "short-sweetening", the name applied to sugar. Clothing came from another patch—of cotton; and almost every home was a factory in a small way, wherein the women and children, with spinning wheel and hand loom, wove fabrics from

which all articles of wear were fashioned, besides sheets, pillow cases, table cloths and other household necessities. The fertilization of these patches, by the cow-pen method, was a simple matter. Cattle were impounded in an enclosure, fenced in with poles or split rails, and when the area enclosed in a pen was sufficiently fertilized, it was ready for planting, and another enclosure was given over to the fertilization process. Here, then, with very little labor, were provided all the requirements of raiment and the necessities of food. But the luxuries of the table did not cost even the small effort that was expended on the necessities—they were provided, not by labor, but by sport. The woods abounded with every kind of desirable game. Venison, wild turkey, quail, squirrel, and water fowl were items of the daily menu. Then, every stream and lake was alive with fish, and the sport of a pleasant hour or two would provide a welcome change of diet for a large family.

In time, around the rude dwelling a few orange trees would appear, grown from the seed, and these would furnish luscious fruit for the family. After a while, when the orange trees bore more heavily, the settler would load a few hundred of them in his wagon, and haul them to the village of Tampa, where he would receive about a cent each for them. A journey of this kind, however, required several days, and was not to be undertaken without considerable preparation and forethought, and was seldom made more frequently than once or twice a year. The more industrious of the settlers would also have some surplus cotton, and this, too, would be taken to Tampa and sold "in the seed", at 10 cents per pound. "In the seed" meant that the seed had not been separated from the fiber. For home uses of cotton, the seeds were picked out by hand, the children doing much of this work; later, a crude, home-made gin was employed. And so, with hunting, fishing and not too strenuous labor, life for the pioneer residents was not unduly hard. Their pleasures were simple, but they were enjoyed as much—perhaps much more—as are the multiplied diversions of the present day. There were camp meetings where the people for miles around came into friendly and pleasant social contact; there were cane grindings, sugar boilings, quilting bees, debating societies, and many other occasions which, though they may seem absurdly simple to the sophisticated, were more of a treat, and looked forward to with more pleasurable anticipation than a season of grand opera, or a European tour would be to the blasé product of the present day.

Hon. Ben F. Blount, prominent for many years in the affairs of the county, to which he came as a small boy, had a wonderful fund of information concerning these early days, and it was our good fortune to find the following reminiscences, which he contributed to the Bartow Courier-Informant in 1908, and which give a more vivid picture of life in the period of which he writes than could be furnished by any other than an eye-witness:

"In October, 1851, my grandfather, Readding Blount, and four sons, viz: Riley R., wife and four children; Owen R., wife and two children; Nathan S., unmarried; Jehu J., not grown; Streaty Parker (his son-in-law), wife and two children; John Davidson, wife and one child (later Mrs. Solomon Page); making 21 white persons and about a dozen negro slaves, constituted our colony that came from near Alligator, now Lake City, in this State, and located about one mile west

of the present Court House in Bartow. My father purchased a small improvement from the noted Captain James Green, and paid him $40 for it, and later laid a pre-emption claim upon it, embracing the 160 acres which was the land sold to Mr. Summerlin, and which now constitutes a part of the present site of Bartow. The country was absolutely new, as there were not more than a dozen families in what is now Polk County. Silas McClelland and a Mr. Hill lived near the present site of Medulla. Rigdon Brown and his son, William, lived three miles northwest, and N. R. Raulerson (Uncle Rabe), three and one-half miles east of Bartow, where he settled in 1849, and where he still resides (1908) with his son-in-law, Enoch Whatley, being about 90 years old.

"Two or three families lived in that section known as Socrum, and a few in the neighborhood of Fort Meade. These, with our colony and a garrison of United States soldiers, and a hundred or more Indians belonging to the Seminole tribe, composed the population of the present Polk County. The Indians were living in the eastern portion of the county, and had farms on Catfish and Rosalie Lakes. Game and fish abounded in great quantities. Wild beasts and smaller vermin were just as numerous. It was no uncommon thing for a bear to run the dogs and hogs under the house in the daytime, and you may guess where the women and children went, especially the negro portion of them. Every family had to keep a good pack of dogs and plenty of guns and ammunition. Dogs were not allowed to run deer and turkeys, as they could be shot down at any time when needed. Venison was always kept on hand for the dogs, but the people got almost as tired of it as the Israelites did of the quail and manna in the wilderness. If a man ate a fox squirrel, he kept it a secret to keep from being laughed at. This being only a few years after the close of the Indian war of 1835, and the Indians still being a little hostile, and threatening an invasion, the country settled up very slowly, and only four years elapsed until actual hostilities began in 1855. There were but two trading stations accessible to us, Tampa and Fort Meade. The market was very good, however, for all kinds of country produce, and our wants in the clothing line were easily met, and I can assure you that there was not a very great business done in gents' furnishings, nor ladies' dress goods. Hickory stripes, osnaburgs, narrowed homespun, calico, brogan shoes, ammunition, tobacco, soda, salt, coffee, flour, and occasionally a few yards of linen checks and Kentucky jeans, with thread and buttons thrown in, composed our dry goods and grocery assortment. We had no preaching, but the people would visit each other on Sunday, and tell each other of the thrilling incidents of the week, and sing a good many songs from the old "Sacred Harp", one of which I still have on hand, containing the four shaped notes, fa, sol, la, me. Men usually carried their guns wherever they went, and it was not an uncommon thing to meet a monster 'gator, measuring from eight to twelve feet, in the middle of the road ready to dispute the right-of-way, and if you had no gun, he always kept the road, and as you passed around him on foot, he would rise on his feet and show you the full status of his 'gatorship. He would keep his head turned toward you, and as you passed around him with his mouth open from six to ten inches wide, exhibiting a full view of ordnance supplies and his reserve force in the rear, measuring one-half his length, and a little elevated, ready to come

to the front at a moment's warning, should he be flanked from either side. While thus standing like Goliath, clad in his shield of bone and armor of mail, you could look through between his upper and nether crushers and behold an open repository with ample room for the storage of one or two of the young Jonahs of the present day. When you would make your circuit around him and get started on your way, he would seem to make an effort to go your way, which would take all the gravity out of your feet and give you a very graceful and irresistible stride down the road. His saurian instincts would then lead him on his search for the most expansive morass to be found.

"When we came to this county we had to build some roads, and causeway some of the branches, to get to our desired spot. But it is a mistake to say there were no roads in this country at that time. In the Indian war, which lasted from 1835 to 1842, General Winfield Scott opened up a number of good roads leading to his many camping stations. Tampa was connected by good wagon roads with Fort Meade, Fort Clinch, Fort Capron, Fort Myers, Fort Carroll, and many other places that I might mention. And then in the Seminole war of 1855 the roads were reopened and new ones built.

"The Indian war of 1855 brought many new recruits into this county, who, after the close of the war in 1858, remained here, and others hearing of the country's resources, came here and its development was very rapid until the beginning of the Confederate war, two years later. This placed a chill on everybody's ambition, but patriotism took hold of the people's hearts and minds, and a militia company was organized with Captain W. B. Varn as its head. The company at once began to practice drilling at the newly selected county site (Mud Lake), and kept this up at times until the more serious phase of the war changed the prospective into actual hostilities, and the old militia company was reinforced and reorganized under Captain N. S. Blount, and left the vicinity of Bartow after a great dinner had been given them early in March, 1862.

"During the conflict with Seminole Indians from 1855 to 1858, the people had an opportunity for exploring this part of the State, and after the war, the new recruits who enlisted in the State service, lost no time in locating homes in the most fertile sections of the county, and by the year 1860 there were a good many families, known now as the old settlers of the county. Everyone of these old settlers have now passed away (in this year of 1908), so far as I know, except Uncle Rabe Raulerson, who is still living where he first settled in 1849. The localities considered the most desirable then are today among the leading centers of wealth and population, the lake regions and phosphate districts coming in later for a full share of their honors.

"Some of the earlier settlers were the Blounts, the Varns, the Browns, the McLellands, the Hamiltons, the Sewards, the Scotts, the Durrances, the Whiddens, the Summeralls, the Guys, the Hendrys, the Moodys, the Singletarys, the Pearces, the Wilsons, the Greens, the Laniers, the Hookers, the Bryants, the Wilders, the Friers, the Deesons, the Harrisons, the Summerlins, the Pollards, the Costines, the Collins', the Hulls, the Sloans, the Futchs', the Gunters, the Fewels, the McAulays, the Kendricks', the Wilkersons, the Crums, the Parkers, the Cumbees, the David-

sons, the Haymans, the Pylants, the Englishes, the Stevens', the Skippers, the Hollingsworths, the Rogers', and others that I cannot now remember. Some of them settled here prior to the close of the Seminole war, but most of them settled during the years '58-'59 and '60. The most of these settlers have left large posterities behind them, who are among the most influential and useful citizens of the county.

"During these early years there were not only a great many occasions of privation and endurance, but also a great many acts of bravery and conflict and risk of life that would make the blood in one's veins almost curdle to hear them truthfully narrated. I have had some thrilling encounters with bears, panthers, wolves, deer, wildcats, coons, snakes, etc., all of which I cannot here relate, but will tell you of one or two exactly as they occurred.

"I have been in such close proximity to deer in the swamps and hammocks while hunting that I had to give them the right-of-way by one or two feet, or be literally run over. On one occasion I shot a buck down in some thick brush and palmetto, and when I approached him, three others, with very heavy sets of horns, charged on me and stopped about six feet distant, and showed terrible anger and a determination to murder me right there, and it was only with the use of my empty gun, which I used as a club, and kept motioning them for several minutes, before I could get them beat back out of sight. I then strung the dead one on my back and started towards my horse, when a few yards away I met another one in my path that began to show fight, and without ridding myself of the one I had, I raised my gun and shot him dead in his tracks at only a few steps distant, where the brush and palmetto was very thick.

"One afternoon when I was about fourteen years old, my brother, John, three years my junior, and I, started on a turkey hunt, and while in the hammock, right where J. R. Davis is now making cabbage, we discovered a large bear at close range. He was standing perfectly erect like a man and seemed determined to hold his position. I had a double-barrel rifle and shot gun, muzzle loader. I made no delay in firing at him with the rifle, and struck him just below the chin, and his head and shoulders came to the dirt, but his hind parts kept jumping over back and forth, and it looked like he would get on his feet every moment, and there seemed to be no time to hold a council of war, so I ran as quickly as possible to within a few feet of him while he was jumping, blowing, snapping and growling, it seemed all at the same time, and sent thirteen buckshot into the side of his head and put a stop to that part of the exhibition. Well, my dear reader, if you have never been in a bear fight, nor heard or seen a bear die, I can't tell you anything about it. If you have, you don't need any telling. He weighed about 400 pounds, and we got four gallons of oil out of him.

"In the summer of 1866, just after I was married, Seaborn Smith, my little brother, James, and I went after supper to hunt the coons out of my father's cornfield. We had three good heavy dogs, and a small bore single-barrel muzzle-loading shot gun, loaded with No. 6 shot. We put the dogs in the field and sat at the gate to tell stories until the dogs treed. After a while we heard a bark over in the hammock. We went there with one lightwood splinter that we picked up on the way, and on arriving there an immense animal of some sort jumped out of

a tree and landed within a few feet of us. The dogs chased it a short distance and treed again. We broke our splinter into three pieces and struck a light and shined up the tree, a very large sweet gum, and discovered the most awful looking pair of eyes I ever saw. I shot at them with my little gun, which only put him in a rage. He stayed up there for a while, going to the top of the tree, growling, mewing and snapping, but the limbs and brush hid him from view. He finally decided to come down and when he did he made no delay, but landed himself just between Smith and myself who stood about four feet away. We had only a small flickering blaze of light, about two inches long. The vines and brush were very thick, and the dogs covered him instantly, when he fell on his side, cat-like, and then and there began one of the most terrific encounters, and under the most unfavorable circumstances I ever engaged in. He would hold every one of the dogs at one time in his grasp and seemed to be eating them up alive, and they were each one squalling at their full capacity and he making almost as much noise as they, but a cattish kind of noise. The fight lasted about five minutes and it was terrific from start to finish. I had a medium sized two-bladed knife and stuck the larger blade in his neck and shoulders about a dozen times, jumping to him and from him with all my power each time, while he was making a desperate effort to get me. He finally knocked the knife out of my hand and I lost it until next morning, but he was so near dead he gasped his last. We stayed right there through the night, and slept with this terrible beast until morning, when we procured some help and took him home. He weighed about 250 pounds. His hide was nine feet long from the end of his nose to the end of his tail."

The reader will note a reference by Mr. Blount to a company of militia formed at the beginning of the War Between the States with Capt. W. B. Varn at its head, and its subsequent reorganization under Capt. N. S. Blount. This company left Bartow, as Mr. Blount notes, "after a great dinner had been given them", March 8, 1862. The members of the company needed to be fortified with that dinner, for they set out on a march through the woods to Gainesville, where they were mustered in as Company E, 7th Florida Regiment. The following muster roll of the company was furnished by G. W. Hendry to the Bartow *Courier-Informant* in 1893. The notation "killed" was placed after the names of Lieut. Henry Mansfield, William Hooker, W. P. Rogers, Albert Seward, Jim Smith, Simon Turman, and George Woodard. "Missing after battle" is the notation after the names of L. W. Cornelius and Joe Varn:

MUSTER ROLL.

N. S. Blount, Captain
J. W. Whidden, First Lieutenant
Z. Seward, Second Lieutenant
Henry Mansfield, Third Lieutenant
Hamp Johnson, First Sergeant
William Gay

Altman, Luke
Blount, J. J.
Blount, O. R.
Bulloch, A. J.
Brown, William
Brown, Rig
Brandon, Dave
Brown, Daniel
Cornelius, L. W.
Cathcart, William
Crum, Daniel
Cook, Wilson
Carlton, Wright
Carlton, Reuben
Davis, Edmund
Davis, James
Driggers, Henry
Durrance, Raford
Ellis, Jack
Fletcher, James
Ferguson, Daniel
Gaskins, James
Guy, William
Hendry, William
Hendry, Albert
Hendry, J. M.
Hendry, J. W.
Hooker, William
Hooker, Stephen
Hancock, Martin
Hancock, Sam
Hull, Stephen
Hillard, William
Hill, Henry
Jackson, William
Johnson, Sol
Jordan, Daniel
Keen, A. J.
Keen, Jim
Henry, D. T.
McAuley, Robert
McAuley, Will
McClelland, Si
McClelland, Joe
Marsh, Put
McClelland, Mac
McClelland, William
O'Neal, John
Pat, David
Pollard, John
Pitts, Jim
Patrick, Vick
Pearce, T. C.
Rogers, W. P.
Rimer, Alex
Seward, Jim
Seward, Felix
Seward, Albert
Smith, Jim
Sheppard, Wash
Sheppard, William
Turman, Simon
Underhill, John
Varn, W. B.
Varn, Joe
Williams, Lew
Williams, Nath
Williams, John
Williams, Jim
Waldron, Daniel
Whidden, Max
Weeks, Cary
Woodard, George

We are indebted to an article written to the *Courier-Informant* in 1908 by Captain Ben F. Blount for the following excellent resumé of the early political history of the county:

"In the year 1860 Hillsborough County was divided and the eastern half of it became a new county under the name of Polk, in honor of President Polk.

"The first board of county commissioners we have any record of, and we have no record of how they came in possession of their offices, was composed of Reading Blount, James Hamilton, Isaac Waters and Joseph Mizelle. L. W. Cornelius was county judge.

"On June 17, 1861, a business meeting was held by this board, and the county was laid off into public roads and county commissioners' districts. Some time in the year 1860 or '61 an election was held to determine the location of a county site. The place voted upon was a beautiful parcel of land lying four miles south of Bartow, on the Fort Meade road. James Hamilton and Zachariah Seward, Jr., built a hewed log building on this land, they owning it at the time, and put a stock

of goods in it and made some concessions to the county as an inducement for the county site, but this only created a jealousy, which defeated that place, and Mud Lake was the county site of Polk county for about one year.

"Capt. W. B. Varn's militia company mustered at that place a number of times, but the place was impracticable and was destined to be discontinued, and accordingly an election was again called on the 7th day of October, 1861, and Mud Lake was again voted upon, as against a tract of 160 acres of land one and one-fourth miles south of the present Court House, to-wit: The northeast fourth of section 18, township 30, south of range 25 east. The name given to the place was Jefferson, which was the legal county site for about five years.

"This last named place was chosen as a county site and was named Jefferson after the great constitutional writer and leader of the Democratic party. This city of Jefferson was surveyed into town lots by W. B. Varn, county surveyor, by order of the county commissioners' court, and the lots sold to the highest bidder to raise money to build a court house, but the Confederate war coming on so soon, and this land being reserved for internal improvement purposes, could not be bought, and the city of Jefferson was destined to go the way of her senior city, Mud Lake.

"After the war, the subject of a county site was again one of deep interest to the people of Polk County. After much talk and considerable speculation 'Uncle Jake' Summerlin made his famous offer of 120 acres for county, school and church purposes, which was gladly accepted by the county commissioners, who gave it its present name in honor of Gen. Bartow, who was killed at the first battle of Manassas. At once the work of improvement and housebuilding was begun in good earnest.

"Bartow was always the logical place for a county site. It was here that a company of soldiers were stationed during the Seminole war, and some twenty families were forted up during the same time. It was the center of travel and attraction, and the place during the early settling up of the county where all the newcomers stopped with their families until a place could be selected for their home.

"Riley R. Blount kept the first general supply store here that was kept in the county, from 1858 until 1862, hauling his goods from Tampa a distance of 45 miles.

"In November, 1861, another election was held for a full set of county officers, which resulted in the choice of H. S. Seward for the Legislature; J. J. Blount, clerk of the circuit court; L. W. Cornelius, Judge of probate; H. L. Mitchell, state solicitor; E. T. Kendrick, sheriff; F. A. Hendry, Readding Blount, Isaac Waters and Joseph Mizelle, county commissioners.

"The sheriff was ex officio tax assessor and collector. He made his lists and kept his books according to his own choice of style, and made his records and turned over moneys when called upon by the county commissioners. After the organization of Major Blount's company in March, 1862, William Durrance acted as sheriff and John Davidson, clerk of the county until the end of the war. There are no records that I can find in the county that give any account of the assessed valuation of property up to several years after the war. The taxes collected in any one year up to 1866 for all purposes never amounted to $1,000. No courts

were held in these years of strife, and all the taxes collected during that time, after paying the commissioners and sheriff for their services, were used in supporting the poor soldiers' families. Committees were appointed for each commissioner's district to look after their wants, and the tax money was turned over to them for that purpose by the sheriff. Spinning wheels were provided for the soldiers' wives, and James B. Crum was elected wheelmaker at a cost of $8.50 per spinning wheel, and he did his work faithfully and honestly.

"There was no court house built at the city of Mud Lake, during the one year's time of its existence as the capital of Polk County, neither at Jefferson during its four years' term, but there was a hewed-log store-house, not in use as such after the war, four miles south of Bartow, and a hewed-log Baptist church house two and one-half miles south of Bartow, in both of which circuit court was held for two years after the war by Judge Bush and Judge Gettis, and also in the old Summerlin Institute, which was completed before the new court house was begun by John McAulay. A part of the court house records being lost and others being incomplete in these respects, and my memory being somewhat at fault, I cannot give any more definite account of the court held in these two years after the war.

"On June 15, 1867, the county commissioners awarded the contract to build the first court house in Polk County to John McAulay for $3,800. The house was to be framed and weatherboarded on the outside and ceiled on the inside. The frame was very heavy, being heavily braced top and bottom, and every brace tenoned and drawpinned into the timbers at each end, and all the studding was tenoned and drawpinned into the sills above and below. A good deal of the timbers were hewn out by hand, and all the weatherboarding and ceiling were dressed by hand, and the house was never painted. Twelve months was allowed in which to build this house, and it was to be paid for in current money or its equivalent in county bonds at 25 per cent. discount. The first jail was also built at the same time at a cost of $1,600, and paid for in cash or bonds of the same valuation. It was built by U. R. Durrance out of hewn timbers eight inches square, laid on top of one another. It was about sixteen feet square and two stories high, and was utterly worthless, as prisoners could not be kept in it. It was soon condemned, having become rotten, and was afterwards burned to the ground by some good, law-abiding citizen. The second jail was built a few years later and was worth little more than the first, and was later used as a city calaboose for the city of Bartow."

It was not until about 1880 or 1881 that there was any material change in conditions as outlined in the foregoing, or any considerable accretion in population. This is evidenced by the fact that the State census of 1875 shows only a gain of twelve inhabitants over the Federal census of 1870. With the ushering in of the '80's, however, there began to be vague rumors of the coming of the railroad, with its promise of development and improvement, and new settlers began to flock in, while those who were already here began to feel the thrill of anticipation of a new era.

In August, 1881, a meeting was held at Bartow to form a County Immigration Society, but it was not largely attended. P. R. McCrary was chairman, and Fred N. Varn was secretary.

Hunting and fishing were good in these days in all parts of the county; deer, bear, and wild turkeys were plentiful, also there was a sufficiency of rattlesnakes. In 1881 a wildcat attempted to invade the home of Mr. Collins at Foxtown.

Polk County did not have a "grog shop" in August, 1881, but, as now, there was much complaint about the illegal sale of liquor.

Many people were proving up land claims in 1881. It was possible to secure 160 acres of choice land by paying the Government entry fees, which at that time totaled $14. Land could be bought close to Bartow for $50 an acre; good orange land for $25 an acre. There was complaint that land was being held at prices that were too high, thus retarding settlement.

In 1881 Polk had a population slightly in excess of 3,000. The assessment rolls showed 23,000 cattle, 555 horses and 900 sheep. The assessed valuation of all property was $368,668. The total taxes of the year amounted to $3,581.82, of which $1,106.60 went to the school fund. There was the same kicking on taxes as there is today, the rate being, county 90 cents, State 80 cents, total $1.70 per $100. There were tax-dodgers, too, then as now. One man gave in 1,500 head of cattle to the assessor, and a man who worked for him declared he branded 1,500 calves the same year.

There was optimism prevalent in most of the public expressions of the time, and there was a firm belief in the future of Florida. How far this section of the State has come since those days may be calculated from even such a trivial item as that "the" barber of Tampa committed suicide (in 1881) and an advertisement appeared in the Tampa papers that there was an opening for a barber in that village. The barber's name was F. B. Cole.

Gold was evidently not an unusual medium of circulation, for at a camp meeting near Bartow, Capt. John Parker, of Manatee County, had eleven doubloons stolen from him.

There was very little crime in the county, the court dockets as a rule listing only minor offenses. There was only one indictment returned by the grand jury at the May, 1882, session.

Roads were almost impassable, and there was not a good bridge in the county. A ferry was operated over Peace River at Fort Meade by W. H. Willingham. Negro laborers were scarce and unreliable.

In answer to a statement from some northern source that Florida people were weak and anaemic, Hon. J. Wes Bryant, P. O. Keen and James Hancock, each of whom weighed more than 200 pounds, were cited as examples of the robust character of native Floridians, or long-time residents.

A post office was established at Brandon, between Bartow and Fort Meade, in 1882, and Rev. J. W. Brandon was made postmaster.

In May, 1882, the boosters—there are some of the tribe in all periods and in some of the most out-of-the-way places—were again striving to promote immigration. A public meeting was held at Bartow, with Judge J. T. Wilson as chairman, and J. H. Humphries secretary. Immigration, the preparation of a descriptive pamphlet, and railroad matters, were discussed, and committees were appointed to give all these things attention.

As early as 1882 the no-fence proposition was being discussed, though it remained a vexed and unsettled question for many years.

Some fear was expressed at this early day that the Republicans might make an effort to capture the State.

The Bartow paper at that time undertook to inform persons elsewhere how to come to Polk County. We quote: "Persons have the choice of four methods of reaching Polk County. The first by team on the common roads; and we believe that all persons living in any of the Southern States, within 800 miles of us, would do best to adopt the old method of the road wagon to bring such articles of furniture, etc., as are actually needed; then they have their stock, wagons, etc., when they get here, and mules and wagons, harness, etc., are always expensive here. But mechanics and others who do not need these things can come from their nearest railroad station to Cedar Keys, and from there by steamship to Tampa, and it is only 45 miles from there to Bartow. Or, they may come to Jacksonville, and then ascend the St. Johns river to Sanford, and then by rail to Orlando. From there to Bartow, 70 miles, by private conveyance. Another route from Jacksonville is up the Oklawaha to Leesburg or Fort Mason, thence by boat to Yalaha or Okahumpka and then by private conveyance, 75 miles, to Bartow. They may also, instead of going to Cedar Keys, take the Peninsular road at Waldo, and come down to the present terminus, near Sumterville, and thence by private conveyance to Bartow, 80 miles. The cost is nearly the same by either route, from the railroad or ship to Bartow, and persons can govern themselves by the fare to the end of the public lines of transportation from their starting points."

At the fall term, 1882, of the Circuit Court the following constituted the grand jury: N. J. Arnal, J. W. Deeson, J. J. Mills, M. G. Fortner, Jr., J. W. Johnson, E. J. Hilliard, R. W. Trapnell, A. G. Zipperer, Timothy Alderman, T. J. Altman, J. T. Pollard, B. S. Boothe, Jeff Crews, George A. DeVane, L. J. Taylor, J. H. Ivey. Petit jurors: W. H. Hogan, Matthew Davis, T. L. Rogers, W. P. Ferrell, D. H. King, J. E. Godwin, Richard Sparkman, Robert McKinney, Silas Bryant, J. J. Simmons, J. R. Durrance, William Cochrane.

There was no jail and the court house was a dilapidated structure. In November, 1882, the County Commissioners advertised for bids for building a jail; also for constructing a ford across the creek on the Tampa road beyond T. C. Pearce's. The remnants of the old jail had been burned during the summer in order to get the gratings, which were used for the new calaboose just erected for the town of Bartow.

During 1882, and in the early part of 1883, property was sold in the county amounting to $500,000, more than the whole tax valuation two years before. In the period mentioned 500,000 orange trees had been set out in the county, while the population had increased from 3,500 in 1880 to 6,000.

In February, 1883, when settlement was made between the county officials and county commissioners, the county was reported out of debt with some money in the treasury.

Polk County—especially the settlements of Bartow, Fort Meade, Medulla and Medora—in the year ending June, 1883, had what was then thought and called

a wonderful boom. Lands in many places had increased in value five hundred-fold; new houses and new improvements of every kind having been built or added, and business in all lines keeping pace with the general progress.

In the spring of 1883, colonists from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, some forty in number, located east of Fort Meade. They had been preceded by about twenty others, the colony being the project of Dr. C. F. Marsh.

Barrooms closed on expiration of their licenses in 1883, but there was "evidences of sly dealings in alcoholic drinks."

The grand jury presentment of the spring term, 1883, urged the building of a new court house and jail, the need of the latter being apparent from the statement that "criminals are running at large in the county, or staying at home and attending to their business." Sheriff C. C. Gresham, who was criticised for this state of affairs, very reasonably asks the question, "What will I do with a prisoner if he is arrested and cannot give bail? There is no jail in the county for the safe-keeping of a prisoner, and the Judge has told me he will tell the Sheriff of Hillsborough County not to receive any more prisoners from Polk." That being that, the Sheriff presented his resignation.

In August, 1883, the county assessment had grown to over a million dollars—an increase of over $400,000 in a year.

In October, 1883, the commissioners advertised for bids and plans for a new court house. The county tax rate was then 7 mills, and it was proposed to levy an additional 3½ mills to build the court house. A petition was circulated against the movement. The proposition prevailed, however, and the court house was built at a cost of $9,000, J. H. Thompson being the contractor. In March, 1884, the old court house was sold for $100, and it was considered to have brought a good price.

On January 10, 1886, a cold wave lasting four days enveloped Florida. A minimum temperature of 18 degrees was recorded for Tuesday morning, January 13th. Freezing temperature began on Saturday night and did not disappear until Wednesday night in the week following. Ice formed in the little pools of water on the streets of Bartow.

A post office was established at Eagle Lake in 1886.

In 1887 county division was being agitated by the Lakeland News, and the discussions between Lakeland and Bartow newspapers were quite acrimonious.

A new apportionment this year gave Polk two Representatives in the Lower House and one Senator. Before that time she had been allowed only one Representative and one Senator.

After a campaign lasting several weeks, during which many meetings were held at different points in the county, and much oratory was used, Polk County went dry by a decisive majority in an election held on September 1, 1887. The vote stood: For selling 341; against selling, 839—a total vote of 1,180, with a dry majority of 498, almost two to one. Frank Clark, who was at that time a resident of Bartow, was very active on the prohibition side at this election.

In 1887 taxes for all county purposes were at the rate of 18 mills.

There were some cases of yellow fever in Tampa during the summer of 1887, and the communities of Polk naturally were somewhat excited and fearful. There seems to have been no case of the disease in Polk, however. A quarantine camp was maintained near Lakeland, under Capt. J. W. Harwell. Isham Walker was "chief cook and bottle washer", according to the record of the time, and Ben F. Blount was clerk and quartermaster. The advent of cool weather relieved apprehension of the dread disease.

Coroners' juries in those days were more formal in the verbiage of their verdicts than at this time. Witness this report of a coroner's jury in a case where Dr. S. P. Mull was fatally wounded in an altercation with John Clark. The verdict was "that John Clark, in the county aforesaid, in and upon the said Dr. S. P. Mull, with a certain knife, which he then and there had and held, a mortal wound did inflict of which said mortal wound the said Dr. S. P. Mull died."

"The handsomest and most substantial jail building in Florida" was completed at Bartow late in 1887. The jail was so secure that many prisoners were brought to it from other counties for safe-keeping.

The county commissioners voted to give $2,000 for a Polk County exhibit at the Sub-Tropical Exposition at Jacksonville, in 1887.

The idea of water transportation to Bartow was being considered, as in 1887 the channel of Peace river was reported open some three miles above Fort Meade.

G. W. Gandy, who settled east of Bartow in 1867, dropped dead while hunting alligators in June, 1888.

In July, 1888, an "Open Proposition", signed by many prominent men of Bartow, Fort Meade, Homeland, etc., was addressed to J. W. Bryant, Epps Tucker, L. L. Bristow, A. A. Scott, N. B. Bowyer, F. R. Green, W. B. Bonacker, Dr. J. M. Perry and other citizens of Lakeland and north Polk, asking that the agitation for county division be discontinued, and that they join with the signers in "burying any past differences that may have existed, and nominating and supporting a good, Democratic legislative ticket for the best interests of the entire county." To this communication an amicable reply was made, stating that it had been the sentiment expressed at a meeting held in Lakeland that the discussion of county division be discouraged for the present. Bartow and Lakeland were distrustful of each other in these days, however, and the *Advance-Courier* was not satisfied with the reply, maintaining that there was "nothing in it."

County commissioners in 1889 were: District No. 1, H. Schipman; No. 2, E. J. Hilliard; No. 3, T. W. Anderson; No. 4, Harrison Jones; No. 5, A. C. Thompson. The tax levy for that year was: County, 3 mills; public roads, 2 mills; special tax, 1½ mills; Board of Health, ½ mill; State, 5⅝ mills; total, 12⅝ mills.

In May, 1893, there was a County Poor Farm, but it had only one inmate. Capt. A. C. Thompson was in charge of the farm for many years. It was located near Lakeland on the site where I. Dale Williams now has a beautiful home.

A County Court had just been created, and the first session was held on August 1, 1893. Jordan Durrance was Judge of the Court, and C. C. Wilson was Prosecuting Attorney. The jury serving at this term was composed of the follow-

ing: G. W. Windham, J. M. Keen, A. Zipprer, W. P. Sherretz, H. A. Prine, M. D. Raulerson, H. F. Blood, C. E. Reed, O. J. Pate, A. H. Sloan, and J. W. Hollingsworth.

E. C. Stuart was offering lands for sale at Mountain Lake, for groves and trucking. That section is now the location of a retreat for millionaires.

In 1893, the real estate values of the county amounted to $3,515,000; personal property, $665,000; total assessed valuation, $4,180,000.

A rural correspondent of a newspaper of this time contributes the following item: "Drinking juice and eating scum is in order now. In sugar-making the cane juice is liked by many, just as sweet cider is North, and after the juice is boiled down and is put in the troughs to granulate into sugar, a fine scum rises on the syrup, and, with little paddles made from cane, this is scraped off and eaten by little folks, and even by some not small. With us a man is thought to be lacking in hospitality if you go to his place when he is grinding cane and he doesn't ask you to have a drink of juice."

The county commissioners called a "wet and dry" election for April 15, 1894. The result was a dry victory by a majority of 144. The vote stood: For selling, 280; against selling, 284. In 1887 an election on the same question resulted thus: For selling, 300; against selling, 821; dry majority, 521. Another election in 1891 resulted: For selling, 125; against, 524; dry majority, 399.

A 32-page pamphlet setting forth the "Resources and Productions of Polk County" was issued by the County Commissioners early in 1894. There had been no literature of this character disseminated for a period of eight years.

In September, 1894, the commissioners appropriated $60 to buy a pair of bloodhounds.

The population of the county increased from 3,181 in 1880 to 7,905 in 1890.

The grand jury presentments in October, 1894, recommended the purchase of 30 acres of land lying east of the Poor Farm, and between the same and the railroad, provided it could be purchased at $5 per acre.

In the Congressional election in the fall of 1894, S. M. Sparkman received 455 votes, and McKinnon 280, in Polk County.

The Terra Ceia Phosphate Co.'s plant burned November 28, 1894.

Saturday, December 27, 1894, was the coldest day on record up to that time, the mercury going down to 18 degrees. Practically all the oranges in the State were frozen, and many of the trees were killed, especially the young ones. Nearly all growing truck was killed. Notwithstanding the magnitude of the disaster, the people were not discouraged; but on February 8, 1895, a little more than a month later, another catastrophe was visited upon Florida. A second severe cold spell was experienced, a temperature of 20 degrees being admitted by the chronicles of this time, though it is probable that the minimum was some degrees lower. A blizzard descended upon this section on the afternoon of Thursday, February 7th, and on Friday morning the mercury had gone down to 20 degrees. The temperature remained at or near freezing all day Friday, and on Friday night it dropped again to 24. Saturday night it was again below freezing. This continued cold wrought great destruction amid the orange groves of the State, entirely wiping

out many of them. Many growers were ruined, particularly those who did not have sufficient capital to tide them over the period of depression inevitable to such a blow to what was then Florida's principal industry. Some were discouraged and left the State. Others turned their energies and efforts into different channels. But the great majority, with a resiliency seldom equalled by any people, "carried on", rehabilitated their groves, varied their crops, and developed many hitherto unsuspected resources of the State, resulting in the building of a more permanent prosperity than the section had ever before enjoyed. The people of the orange belt declined any assistance, and declared they were able to take care of themselves, when an investigating committee, to look into their condition, was proposed by the Legislature.

At its February, 1895, meeting, the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution thanking ex-Treasurer B. F. Holland for "the courteous, punctual and accurate manner in which he has discharged his official duties during his several terms."

Postoffices were established early in 1895 at Galloway, with E. G. Gardner as postmaster, and at Waverly, with F. W. Ohlinger as postmaster. The latter place had previously been known as Buffalo, or Buffalo Ford.

At its meeting in March, 1895, the commissioners appropriated $1,000 for an exhibit at the Atlanta Exposition, and Dr. F. W. Inman was made Commissioner. In addition, a Central Exposition Committee was appointed as follows: District No. 1, E. F. Durrance, J. A. Kilgore, D. C. Lancaster; District No. 2, D. E. Ryan, Wiley Parker, W. B. Gardner; District No. 3, E. W. Codington, B. F. Blount, W. T. Whitledge; District No. 4, W. H. Flowers, L. N. Polk, Dr. J. Schrader; District No. 5, Dr. J. L. Derieux, Leslie Keen, E. G. Wilder. T. W. Anderson was permanent chairman of the Association.

Clay roads were being agitated, and the grand jury presentments urged their construction. Particularly was it desired to have a road from Lakeland to Bartow, and from Bartow to Fort Meade, by way of Homeland. These roads came finally, but not until the agitation had lasted many years.

The wet and dry election, held the previous April, was set aside by Judge Phillips as illegal, early in 1895, but the Commissioners refused to grant the petitions of those who applied for a license to sell liquors. Blind tigers flourished while the matter languished in the courts.

Tax assessments were lowered in 1895, being only $2,638,400 on realty. The county levy that year was 11 mills, the State, 5½—total, 16½ mills. The following year the State tax was reduced to 2½ mills.

Prof. J. A. Cox, then a resident of Auburndale, took the State Census for Polk County in the summer of 1895. This census gave the county a population of 10,983, and Bartow 2,016.

Only 29,049 boxes of oranges were shipped during the season of 1894-95, the bulk of the crop having been frozen that year. Before the freeze it was said that "oranges and afternoon naps" were the staple products of Florida, but, for a time at least, both of these products were negligible, and the people had to hustle and find new ways of making a living. There was much talk of "blessings in disguise"

among the Florida optimists during this period. After the depression incident to the freeze, prosperity was brought back, a local chronicler tells us, due to the fact that "thousands of men were cultivating the soil who never did manual labor before." There is a suggestion here that might well be applied to conditions at the present time.

Pineapples were an important crop of Polk, especially in the southeastern part of the county.

Josiah Varn was employed by the commissioners to make a survey of the public roads of the county, to establish their locations, etc., and to record a plat of said public roads in the county road record book.

The county levy for 1896 was 10 mills; State 3¾ mills—total levied for all purposes, 13¾ mills. In addition there was a special sub-school district tax of 3 mills in Lakeland, Fort Meade, Branchboro, Eloise and the Winter Haven districts. Taxes for all purposes in the county that year amounted to $37,485.25—over half of which—$19,474.60—went to the public school fund.

These were the days when everybody was busy saving the country, the free silver people, the Populists, and the "sound money" advocates each insisting that ruin would overwhelm the nation if a certain special panacea were not adopted. Feeling ran high, and politics frequently degenerated into personalities—but all passed, as everything passes, and the country is still here, regardless of dire predictions of disaster.

In 1896, despite the recent freeze, Polk was one of the foremost counties in the State, including her financial condition. She had no indebtedness, and considerable money on hand.

In June, 1896, in order to settle the status of the county with respect to the legality of the sale of liquor, petitions were circulated asking for another wet and dry election. The commissioners called the election for August 5th. The result was a signal victory for the drys, the vote standing: For, 213; against, 450.

Various industries were flourishing, although orange production was coming back but slowly. For the season of 1897-98 the estimated citrus yield was 30,000 boxes for the county and 225,000 for the State. The cattle business was good, however—Jasper Summerlin, S. H. Page, J. M. Crum, Flournoy Watts and others were driving large numbers of cattle to Tampa where they received good prices. Tobacco culture had also grown to important proportions.

There was another cold snap in February, 1897, which damaged truck considerably, but did no other injury.

W. B. Bonacker, of Lakeland, T. L. Hughes, of Bartow, D. C. Lancaster, of Chicora, W. H. Lewis, of Fort Meade, and A. B. Harrington, of Winter Haven, were appointed county commissioners in 1897, in accordance with the recommendation of the Polk County Democratic Executive committee. P. W. Daniel was elected Supervisor of Registration.

The year 1898 was ushered in by a spell of unusually severe weather. On the morning of January 2, the thermometer stood at 25 degrees, and remained close to the freezing point all day. Monday morning the mercury reached 18 at Bartow, and there was considerable ice. Despite the low temperature, the damage was not

great. Most of the oranges had been picked and the trees were dormant, so that only young trees were injured. Temperatures ranging from 18 to 25 degrees were reported all the way down to Punta Gorda, and at Fort Myers 28 degrees was recorded. In parts of Polk, such as Waverly and Frostproof, even the oranges on the trees were uninjured. On February 2, there was another cold spell, the temperature going to 31.

The first Polk County Fair opened at Lakeland, March 1, 1898. The grounds were located in the vicinity of Lake Morton. A grandstand seating 1,500 people had been erected, a bicycle track prepared, and there were buildings to house the displays. The Fair was of county-wide scope, and there were exhibits from all sections. There were baseball games, bicycle races, and oratory by Frank Clark, Jefferson B. Browne and others. Mr. Plant, owner of the Plant System of Railways, with Mrs. Plant, was an honored guest. The Fair showed a net profit of $320.

Capt. W. H. Cobb organized a company for service with the Spanish-American war, composed of Polk and DeSoto County volunteers. The following were members from Polk: Hugh G. Blount, W. L. Boynton, S. L. Canter, B. F. Childs, James S. Day, Jasper C. Ferrell, J. L. Gilmore, F. F. Hendry, Luther L. Johnson, John J. Swearingen, M. A. Wilson, Erle L. Wirt, T. E. Wirt, all of Bartow; R. O. Boyd, Winter Haven; Carey M. Carlton, William J. Lovette, Curtis Langford, Fort Meade; Henry D. Henderson, Lakeland; Lock Bingham, George Vischer, John Kennedy and Jake Page, from the vicinity of Eagle Lake and Winter Haven. M. A. Wilson was elected first sergeant; Erle Wirt and John Gilmore were also sergeants. Other Polk County boys had minor offices. The company was in camp for a time at Macon, later going to Cuba as a part of Ray's regiment. After service in Cuba, the regiment returned to Macon in April, 1899, preparatory to being mustered out. The Polk County boys reached Bartow on May 3rd, and were given an ovation on their arrival. Bartow boys who participated in this home-coming were: Lieut. M. A. Wilson; Sergeants E. L. Wirt, John Gilmore, Theron Wirt; Corporal Luther Johnson; Privates Jim Dill, Jasper Ferrell, Tobe Hendry; Bandmen, John Swearingen and R. C. Blount. J. S. Day, S. L. Canter and Frank Childs had also returned from Cuba with the regiment, but did not come to Florida at that time.

Snow fell in Polk County, and over much of South Florida, on February 13, 1899. At the same time extreme cold prevailed in every section of the country, and it is said there was snow in every State in the Union. At Bartow the thermometer stood at 28, and the snow melted almost as rapidly as it fell. The following morning, however, the temperature had gone to 22. There was more severe cold, and greater damage, in other sections of the State—particularly at Miami, where the trucking industry, for the time, was almost annihilated. Such growers, however, as Varn Bros., G. L. Griffin, J. R. Davis, J. S. Howard, of Eloise, and others, by a little forethought saved much of their truck, and were shipping immediately after this cold spell.

The aggregate value of real estate in Polk County, for the year 1898, was $2,102,140; personal property, $615,140; railroads and telegraph lines, $3,508,130. Polk stood seventh in valuation in the State at that time.

In May, 1899, the following were recommended by the County Democratic Executive Committee to be members of the Board of County Commissioners for the ensuing years: T. L. Hughes, Bartow; A. B. Harrington, Winter Haven; Arthur Keen, Fort Meade; W. T. Hull, Chicora; H. J. Drane, Lakeland.

Ben Hampton, of Lakemont, was commissioner to secure exhibits from Polk County for the Omaha Exposition in 1899. Byron S. Ashley was also active in this connection.

Polk County's second Fair was held at Lakeland, beginning May 25, 1899. There were bicycle races, horse races, and many other sports, but it seems that the items of agricultural or industrial exhibits had been overlooked. The Fair Association seems to have fallen into evil days after this meeting, several suits being filed against it. The property of the Association was sold to satisfy some of the claims and judgments, and the enterprise became defunct.

In 1899, Polk's tax rate was 9 mills, and with a State tax of 5½ mills, the entire levy was 14½ mills for all purposes, most of this being for schools and roads. It was boasted at the time that "we owe nothing, and pay cash for everything as we go, including school warrants."

There was a yellow fever scare, and quarantine complications, almost every year prior to 1900.

In 1900, Polk's orange crop was estimated at 100,000 boxes. There was complaint (there is always complaint) that the market was glutted with inferior and unripe fruit and that the growers were only receiving $1.50 and $1.75 per box on the trees.

The thermometer went down to 28 or lower, and ice formed on February 23-24, but there was the usual report that no damage was done.

A. J. Whidden gave notice of a petition to divide the county, proposing to cut off a large territory from the eastern portion and annexing it to Osceola. The matter died in the legislature.

County Commissioners appointed in May, 1901, were: Peter C. Hayes, R. C. Langford, Judson B. Pylant, James E. Marshall, R. O. Cresap. The latter resigned in February, 1902, and John M. Keen was appointed to fill out the unexpired term.

Temperatures of 27 degrees December 21, 1901, and 21 degrees, January 14, 1902, were recorded.

The burning question in 1902 was the fence or no-fence proposition, hogs being the storm center of the controversy. The hogs apparently remained cool and unconcerned, which, however, could not be said of those participating in the arguments.

In 1902, the Peninsular Telephone Company was extending its lines to Fort Meade and Homeland, and planning to serve other points.

There was quite a fight on blind tigers in 1902, instigated largely by Editor D. B. Sweat, of the Bartow *Courier-Informant*. Sheriff J. D. Tillis made numerous arrests, and Judge C. A. Boswell assessed heavy fines—$1,000 in some instances. In February, 1903, Judge J. B. Wall held that prohibition was null and void in Polk County, owing to the fact that the returns of the wet and dry election, held in 1896, had been canvassed by the county canvassing board, instead of by the

county commissioners. The ruling was in cases appealed from the County Court to the Circuit Court, in which fines of $1,000 each for violations of the prohibition law had been assessed against sundry parties. The prohibition people naturally were exercised over this development, and petitions were circulated asking that another election be held. The petitions were granted, and the election called for May 19, 1903. The result was a decisive victory for prohibition, the vote being 501 against the sale of liquor in the county, to 334 for the sale. This was the fourth election held on the question in the county, and the "dry" forces were victorious in all of them.

As late as 1902 there were people living quite isolated lives in Polk. J. M. Thomas, a vegetable grower and stock raiser of the Fort Bassinger section, came into Bartow one day in June of that year, making the trip of 85 miles by horse and wagon. It took him a little over two days to make the journey from his home to Bartow, but he said he enjoyed it, and that "a fellow makes better time when he travels by himself"—a sentiment endorsed by Lindbergh a quarter of a century later.

Taxable property of Polk in 1902 amounted to $3,700,000. The levy was 17½ mills—5 mills for schools, 5 for State purposes, and 7½ for county.

John M. Keen was appointed to represent Polk County and look after the county's exhibit at the State Fair, which was held at Lake City in 1902.

On November 20, 1902, fire at Land Pebble destroyed the large phosphate plant of that name, entailing a loss of $150,000.

Convicts had been leased to naval stores operators, etc., but in 1902 the system was changed, and the prisoners put to work on the roads.

In 1903, the county commissioners were: R. C. Langford, chairman; J. N. Hooker, John M. Keen, L. H. Altman, and J. E. Marshall.

Ambition for good roads ran high in the county at the beginning of 1903. Hope was expressed that ten miles might be added to the good roads of the county, but there was doubt that so much could be accomplished. There was not a decent piece of road reaching any definite point at the time. What roads existed were pieces of patchwork.

In January, 1903, John S. Howard was appointed County Tax Assessor to fill the unexpired term of L. J. Marquis, who died a short time before. The appointment was made on the recommendation of the Democratic Executive Committee.

The Poor Farm was discontinued in 1903. For many years it had been conducted in a highly satisfactory manner by Capt. A. C. Thompson, but it never had many inmates, there having been remarkably few cases of destitution in the county.

The tax levy for 1903 was 16 mills. The tax values had increased to $4,033.070.

A new steel bridge was ordered built across Peace river at Fort Meade in 1903.

On September 12, 1903, a severe storm swept over Florida, but in Polk the damage was confined to the loss of considerable fruit that was blown from the trees. Bartow reported 7.42 inches of rain, most of which fell within 24 hours.

The thermometer went down to 28 on November 28, 1903—an unusually low mark for so early in the season.

County officials nominated in the primary election, May 10, 1904: State Senator, Park Trammell; Prosecuting Attorney, Solon G. Wilson; Clerk, Aaron Ferguson; Assessor, J. H. Lancaster; Tax Collector, W. O. Jordan; County Judge, W. S. Preston; County Superintendent, S. S. Niblack; County Commissioners, John Keen, J. E. Marshall, J. A. Durrance.

In the June, 1904, primaries, A. B. Canter, of Fort Meade, was elected to the Legislature, and J. R. Wiggins was elected sheriff.

As late as 1904, there were 24,690 acres of public lands in Polk open to homesteaders.

The County Commissioners appropriated $1,000 for a Polk County exhibit at the South Florida Fair in October, 1904. This was the first of these exhibitions. W. H. Johnson, Bartow, W. H. McLean, Winter Haven, L. W. Yarnall, Lakeland, and D. C. DuPre, Bartow, were in charge of the exhibits, and a fine showing was made.

The assessed valuation of property in 1907 was $5,382,534.

Polk made a fine showing at the South Florida Fair in February, 1908. W. H. McLean, Winter Haven, was in charge, and Hugh Wear had been the active force in collecting the various displays.

At its meeting in March, 1908, plans and specifications presented by E. C. Hosford & Co., architects, for a new court house building were accepted. Bids were advertised for, and the contract was let to the Mutual Construction Company, of Louisville, Kentucky, whose bid was $83,890. L. Z. Tate was given the contract for removing the old building. The corner stone was laid December 17, 1908, Hon. Park Trammell being the speaker of the day. The building was completed in June, 1909, and on the 25th of that month Bartow entertained the people of the county at a great barbecue in celebration of the acquisition of this fine improvement. S. H. Page was chairman of the committee on arrangements, and there were about 6,000 persons in attendance. Judge C. A. Boswell delivered the welcome address, which was responded to happily by Judge Epps Tucker, of Lakeland. The building and equipment cost approximately $100,000.

There was dissatisfaction in the Lakeland district over the distribution of the road money, etc., that district including a much larger territory than either of the other four. A suit was filed by Lakeland citizens to compel the County Commissioners to redistrict the county according to population, and Judge Wall granted a writ of mandamus to this effect. The commissioners carried the case to the Supreme Court, and its decision favored the Lakeland district plaintiffs. In April, 1909, the county was redictricted according to population, and since that time there has been no sectional discord within the county, and unity and harmony have at all times prevailed.

Officers elected at the primaries of 1908: State Senator, D. H. Sloan; Representatives, J. A. Cox and W. J. Durrance; County Judge W. S. Preston; County Solicitor, L. C. Johnson; Tax Collector, W. O. Jordan; County Superintendent, S. S. Niblack; County Clerk, A. B. Ferguson; Sheriff, John Logan; Treasurer, J. T. Hamm. County Commissioners: District No. 1, E. S. Whidden; No. 2, J. A. Durrance; No. 3, J. N. Hooker, No. 4, T. A. Currie; No. 5, E. J. Yates.

Polk's assessed valuation in 1909 was $6,294,313. Tax rate, 19 mills.

Polk County's fish industry was bringing in about $90,000 a year in the period between 1905 and 1910. Frostproof shipped $18,000 worth of cat fish in 1909, while the fishermen at Fort Gardner and Rosalie were paid about $50,000. The cat fish shipments went to St. Louis and other points, where it was said the product was colored and canned, and sold as salmon.

Polk County's first legal execution took place March 18, 1910, at Bartow, when Robert Dekle, colored, was hung for the killing of another negro man and a woman at the Dominion Phosphate Co. This execution was quickly followed by another, when on June 3, 1910, Ed Sims, colored, was hung at Bartow for the murder of Mr. Martin S. Redd at Mulberry, some time previous.

Officials elected in the primaries of May, 1910: Representatives, A. J. Angle and George R. Fortner; Tax Collector, W. O. Jordan; County Treasurer, J. T. Hamm; County Commissioners, District 1, E. S. Whidden; District 2, R. C. Langford; District No. 3, A. J. Lewis; District No. 4, J. Everett Bryant; District No. 5, T. F. Holbrook.

On account of irregularities in the office, W. O. Jordan resigned as Tax Collector, and, in June, 1910, F. M. Lanier was elected to fill the vacancy.

The Polk County Medical Society was organized in August, 1910. Dr. J. M. Oglesby, of Bartow, was president; Dr. W. R. Groover, Lakeland, vice-president; Dr. S. F. Smith, Lakeland, secretary.

The Polk County Board of Trade was organized at a meeting of citizens from various parts of the county held at Bartow, October 3, 1903. John F. Cox was president and C. H. Walker, secretary. The County Commissioners donated $1,000 to the Board to advertise Polk County. Meetings were held in succession at Lakeland, Fort Meade, Mulberry, Auburndale, Bartow, etc., and the organization did much to foster interest in good roads.

A bond issue in the sum of $500,000 for good roads was submitted to the people, an election being held October 10, 1911. The bond proposition was defeated, the vote standing 276 for and 927 against. "The people want good roads, but were opposed to the bonding system of providing them," was the explanation offered at the time.

Successful candidates in the primaries of 1912 were: H. J. Drane, State Senator; J. C. Brown and R. W. Hancock, representatives; C. M. Trammell, county judge; John Logan, sheriff; J. A. Johnson, clerk of the court; J. J. Boynton, assessor; F. M. Lanier, tax collector; C. A. Parker, county superintendent; J. T. Hancock, county surveyor; P. W. Daniels, supervisor of registration; R. B. Huffaker, prosecuting attorney. County Commissioners: Dist. No. 1, E. S. Whidden; No. 2, W. T. Hurst; No. 3, A. J. Lewis; No. 4, J. Everett Bryant; No. 5, T. F. Holbrook.

On October 20, 1913, the county commissioners inspected and accepted three new steel bridges—two of these over the forks of Saddle Creek, between Lakeland and Carter's; the other over Lanier Creek, on the road to Kathleen.

In December, 1913, the County Commissioners purchased for $3,000 two lots on Church street, Bartow, as a site for a new county jail. The contract was

let March 3, 1914, to McGucken & Hiers, of Tampa, the contract price being $54,000. Work was begun in May, 1914, and the building was completed in December of the same year.

T. F. Holbrook resigned as commissioner in October, 1913, because of ill health, and he was succeeded by J. C. Swindel.

Officials elected in the June primaries, June, 1914: Representatives, Reed Robson and R. W. Hancock; Tax Collector, F. M. Lanier; Treasurer, W. G. Jones; County Commissioners: Dist. No. 1, J. E. Lancaster; No. 2, F. B. Swearingen; No. 3, A. T. Mann; No. 4, Robt. H. Bryson; No. 5, J. C. Swindell. The vote between Werner G. Jones and E. J. Young, for county treasurer, was close, and Mr. Young contested the election. Judge Whitney appointed a commission, composed of M. F. Hetherington, W. L. Cleveland, and W. L. Grier, newspaper men of the county, to make a recount and decide the matter. The findings of the commission upheld the election of Jones.

A postoffice was established at Florinda in July, 1914, and Andrew Ploucher was made postmaster. A postoffice was established at Alturas in October, 1914.

C. A. Parker, County Superintendent, aroused much interest in rural schools through the formation of Rural School Associations.

The Mountain Lake Corporation was organized in December, 1914, F. S. Ruth, Frank S. Washburn, G. V. Tillman, E. C. Stuart and M. E. Gillett being directors. A quarter of a million dollars was expended in community benefits, such as roads, club house and public utilities. The property was laid out under the direction of Frederick Law Olmstead, a landscape gardener of world-wide reputation.

F. B. Swearingen resigned as commissioner in March, 1915, and W. T. Hurst was appointed to the vacancy. In November R. H. Bryson resigned and John S. Howard was appointed Commissioner for District No. 4.

F. M. Lanier resigned as Tax Collector in March, 1915, and J. P. Murdaugh was appointed to the office.

The commissioners appropriated $1,000 to the Polk County Fair at Lakeland, and $1,000 to the South Florida Fair for the exhibitions of 1915. The first-named was opened at Lakeland February 22, 1915, with a parade and an address at the Fair grounds by Governor Park Trammell. J. C. Swindel won the cup for the best farm display.

At the canning clubs' exhibit held in Bartow in November, 1915, Miss Nellie Barrett had on display 120 products, and was given the county prize, a short course in the Woman's College at Tallahassee.

County officials for 1917 were: Kelsey Blanton, county judge; J. A. Johnson, circuit clerk; John Logan, sheriff; J. P. Murdaugh, collector; J. J. Boynton, assessor; Dr. W. L. Clifton, county superintendent; J. C. Swindel, A. T. Mann, J. E. Lancaster, John S. Howard, and J. C. Durrance, county commissioners.

J. C. Swindel was suspended from the office of county commissioner in 1917 by Governor Catts, and R. L. Mayes was appointed in his stead. The Senate, however, refused to concur in Mr. Swindel's removal, and he was reinstated in office, the charges against him falling flat.

The Polk County Y. M. C. A. was organized in April, 1917. Charles E. Ernest, Bartow, was chairman; E. B. Phillips, Bartow, recording secretary; D. B. Eames, Winter Haven, treasurer. Fay Cilley was county secretary.

The Polk County Battalion of Home Guards was organized in 1918, and was officered as follows: Staff: T. W. Gary, major; E. L. Mack, adjutant; W. E. Arthur, quartermaster; E. F. Carter, surgeon; Rev. Wallace Wear, chaplain.

Company E, Mulberry—J. W. Keel, captain; A. L. Campbell, first lieutenant; D. S. Craig, second lieutenant; Simon Loeb, second lieutenant.

Company B, Lakeland—W. Y. Carter, captain; L. W. Bates, first lieutenant; L. C. Noyes, second lieutenant; D. O. Rogers, second lieutenant. Captain Carter resigned after a short time, and the company was in command, until the close of the war, of Charles M. Jones, a graduate of West Point, who was principal of the Lakeland schools at that time.

Company C, Fort Meade and Tiger Bay—H. M. Mansfield, captain; Paul Watkins, first lieutenant; L. L. Bean, second lieutenant; J. V. Chapman, second lieutenant.

Company D, Bartow and Winter Haven—C. B. Ayerigg, captain; George Seymour, first lieutenant; Theron Wirt, second lieutenant; W. F. Hutchinson, second lieutenant.

The county commissioners provided rifles, uniforms and other equipment. The companies drilled regularly, and the Guards undoubtedly would have been efficient and dependable had an emergency presented itself.

W. L. Clifton vacated the office of school superintendent in March, 1918, and John A. Moore was appointed to the position.

On April 26, 1919, a strike was inaugurated, involving all the employees of the phosphate mines in Polk County and the pebble phosphate district. The workers demanded an eight-hour day, with increased pay, which the mine operators refused. There were numerous disorders and considerable violence, incident to other workers coming in to take the place of the strikers. Four persons were killed during the strike, notably among them Rodney Wilson, member of a prominent family of the county, who was stabbed while acting as peacemaker in the course of a difficulty at Mulberry. On August 12, the four companies of Home Guards were called out and mobilized at Bartow, but negotiations between officials, representatives of the operators, and the strikers, resulted in the Guards being dismissed. Although Sheriff Logan was diligent and tactful in handling the situation, he was removed by Governor Catts. This action was emphatically condemned by a mammoth mass meeting of the citizens of the county, held at Bartow August 24th. J. M. Langford was appointed sheriff by Catts, and served for two months, but it becoming apparent that the charges against Logan could not be sustained, and in deference to emphatic public sentiment in the county, Logan was reinstated October 25th. An agreement was finally reached between the workers and the operators, and the strike was officially called off December 11, 1919.

The American Agricultural Chemical Company fenced in a large tract of land it owned near Brewster, for the purpose of operating a farm for raising fine live

stock. Cattle men of the vicinity cut the wire fencing put up by the corporation in order that it might not interfere with free range for their cattle. On the night of January 28, 1920, Sheriff Logan and a posse visited the scene, and came upon four men cutting the fence. The officers hailed the men, and were answered by a fusillade of shots, which they returned. T. W. (Tinker Tom) Albritton, A. J. (Shan) Albritton and Hiram Alderman were killed, and the fourth man, Joseph Alderman, was captured. "Fence cutting" was not an unusual offense in the county prior to this incident; but this appears to have been the last trouble of this character.

In February, 1920, through the efforts of J. W. Sample, a carload of grapefruit was shipped free of charge by the Florida Citrus Exchange to Chicago, for use of the sufferers in the "flu" epidemic in that city.

Jasper Summerlin, who owned several hundred acres of land near Crooked Lake, stated in 1920 that in digging wells for his cattle, he noted evidences of oil. He refused offers of interested parties who wished to buy the land to prospect for oil.

In the June, 1920, primaries, the following were elected: State Senator, O. M. Eaton; county superintendent, C. A. Parker; sheriff, John Logan; representatives, John M. Keen and A. J. Morgan; county clerk, Derieux Raulerson; county attorney, J. H. Peterson; county judge, Spessard Holland; commissioners, E. C. Flanagan, S. C. Sloan, J. T. Hancock, A. T. Mann, J. L. Robison.

"Welcome" signs were erected at the entrances to the county of the main roads from Osceola, Lake, DeSoto, and Hillsborough counties in 1921.

Nominees for county officers in the primaries of June, 1922, were: Circuit Judge, John S. Edwards; representatives, Thos. W. Bryant and B. K. Bullard; county commissioners, Reid Robson, J. L. Robison, J. T. Hancock, A. T. Mann, J. H. Pryor.

In 1922 the Polk County Federation of Women's Clubs was presented free of cost a 10-acre tract of land on Lake Marion, near Haines City, for perpetual use as a camp site and park, the donor being James T. Miller, prominent Haines City citizen. Representatives of the Federation who inspected the site and accepted same were Mrs. J. H. Pryor, president, of Haines City; Mrs. George M. Wright, of Lakeland; Mrs. Vet Brown, Misses Moselle Preston and Louis Godbey, of Bartow. The tract is covered with a growth of giant cypress, magnolia, and other subtropical trees. The Polk County Federation has since established a large summer camp at this place for women and children, the camp being used especially by the girls of the Home Demonstration work.

On May 16, 1923, L. N. Pipkin, D. M. Pipkin and Hugh W. Wear sold a tract of land near Pauway (now Eaton Park) to the Southern Phosphate Corporation of New York, for $991,500. Phosphate is being mined from this tract, which lies about four miles southeast of Lakeland.

A County Board of Trade was formed at a meeting of representatives from various communities of the county, held at Bartow, July 20, 1923. Organization was effected by the election of E. L. Mack as president and T. J. Appleyard as secretary.

Polk County, by a vote of nearly three to one, abolished the open range for stock on December 15, 1923. There had been for some years much sentiment against cattle running at large, a "no-fence" organization having been formed, J. W. Sample and Vet L. Brown being particularly active in the movement. The bill providing for an election on the proposition was passed by the Legislature in 1923, and the election was held at the time and with the result stated. The law became effective July 1, 1924.

An act was passed by the Legislature of 1923 authorizing the County Commissioners to establish a county hospital and farm for the indigent sick and paupers, authorizing the Board to borrow not to exceed $100,000 for providing the same, and to make a tax levy for maintenance. The voters ratified this Act December 31, 1923, and a well-equipped hospital and County Home, located at Bartow, have resulted.

Edward Bok offered a donation to the county of 2,500 acres of land near Templeton—a portion of Tiger Creek swamp—as a public park and game and bird sanctuary, in April, 1924.

A County-wide Flower Show was held at Bartow May Day, 1924. There were floral exhibits from all sections of the county.

County officials elected in the June, 1924, primaries: State senator, John J. Swearingen; representatives, Thos. W. Bryant and B. K. Bullard; sheriff, Alf Wilder; collector, J. P. Murdaugh; county judge, S. L. Holland; supervisor registration, John A. Moore; school superintendent, A. B. Connor.

In June, 1924, a photograph appeared in the *Tampa Times'* magazine section of five women who had followed the wagon trail from Tennessee to Florida in 1881. Three of these women were still living at the time in Polk county. They were: Mrs. M. McCalley, of Fort Meade; Mrs. W. R. Wolf, of Lakeland, and Mrs. John Mitchell, of Mulberry.

Wm. Gomme, who had ably filled the office of County Agent, for Polk county for several years, resigned in August, 1924.

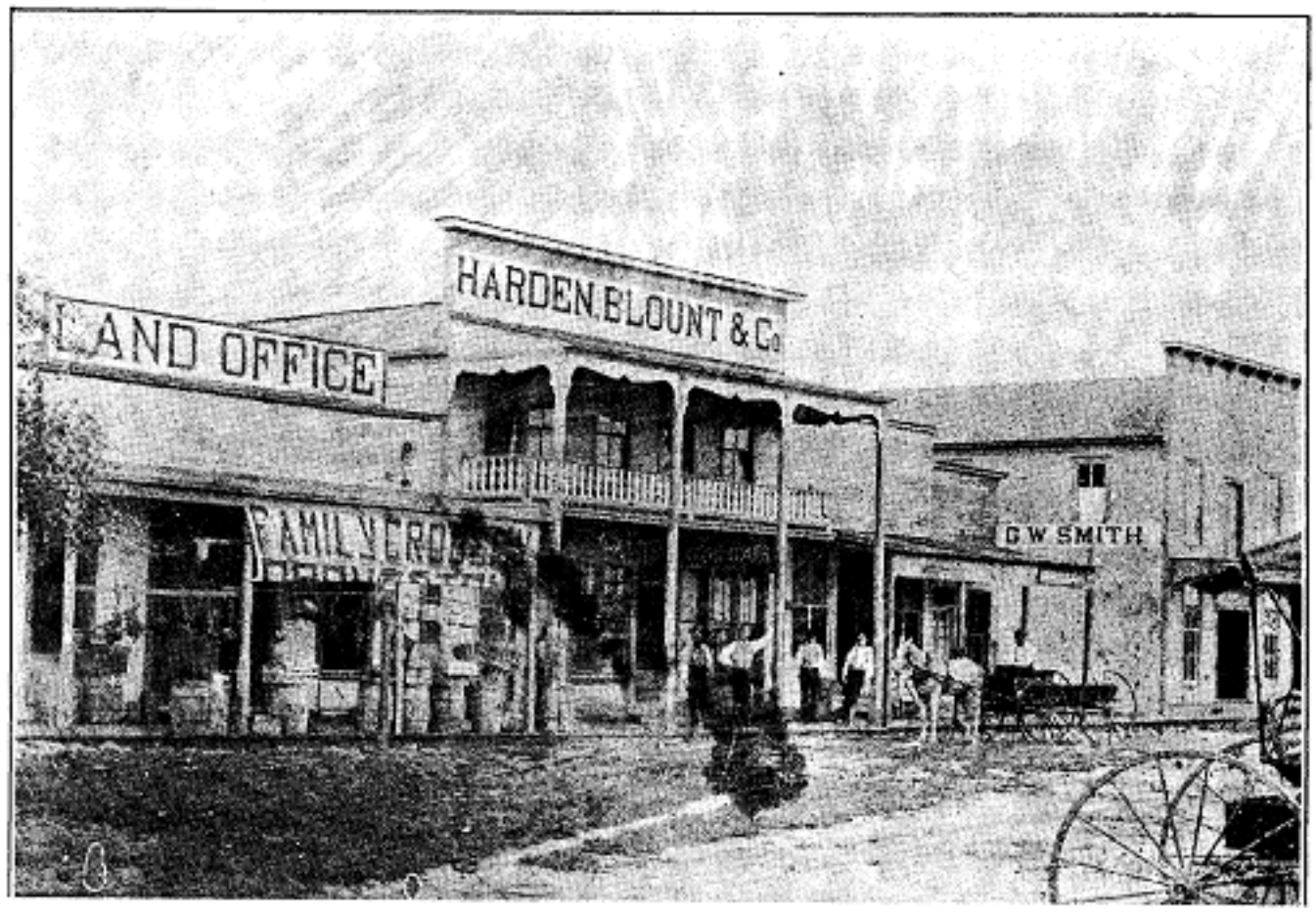
Miss Moselle Preston was appointed Home Demonstration Agent of Polk county in August, 1924, in addition to Miss Lois Godbey, who had already been engaged in this work.

Train service over the new railroad through Polk county, the Florida Western & Northern, was inaugurated January 24, 1925, with the initial run of the Orange Blossom Special from New York to Palm Beach. Large crowds greeted the train at Polk City, Auburndale, Winter Haven and Lake Wales, points in the county touched by the new road. President Warfield and other officials, and many prominent citizens, were aboard.

During what was known as the "boom period," extending back as far as 1923, and including the years 1924 and 1925, practically all communities in the county engaged in a very active and extensive program of improvement and development. In a broader way this condition affected the county as a whole, expressing itself in a demand for additional good roads. Special road and bridge districts were formed in practically every portion of the county, and large issues of bonds were voted, with which to build many additional miles of new roads, and to widen those already

built, thus achieving one of the most complete and extensive systems of paved roads to be found in any county in the United States.

The Bok Singing Tower.—Edward W. Bok, for many years editor of *The Ladies' Home Journal,* in 1922 bought the top of Iron Mountain, at Mountain Lake, near Lake Wales—a tract of 14 acres, to be used as a park and a bird sanctuary. The altitude is 324.9 feet, this being the highest point in Florida. Later, Mr. Bok conceived the idea of establishing at this point the largest and probably the most perfect carillon in the world. A magnificent tower is being erected, 202 feet in height, 527 feet above sea level, and will soon be ready to receive the bells, 61 in number, which recently have been finished at Longborough, England. The bells range in weight from seven pounds to eleven tons, the combined weight being 123,114 pounds. The cost is said to be one million dollars. They will be shipped to the United States as soon as a jury of musical experts approves the tones of the bells, and their harmonic combination. It is expected that the bells will be in place by February 1, 1929, at which time it is planned to open the carillon to the public.





Upper—Business Center of Bartow in the Early Days, from an old print.
Lower—Business Center of Bartow Today.

Chapter II.

BARTOW

The first settlement in the vicinity of Bartow was made about 1851. In that year several families moved from Columbia County, in North Florida, among whom was Riley Blount, Streety Parker, John Davidson, and others, and they settled in the vicinity of where Bartow now stands. Riley Blount owned the greater part of the town site, which he cleared and cultivated for a time, until he sold the land to Jacob Summerlin. The latter donated it for a county town, the proceeds of the sale of lots to be divided as follows: Forty acres for county purposes, twenty acres to the Baptist church, twenty acres to the Methodist church, and forty acres for the erection of an institution of learning. In 1867 the town was laid out and named in honor of Gen. Francis F. Bartow, the Confederate General. Four frame houses were built immediately, two dwellings, one store house, and a two-story building to be used for a school house and a Masonic hall. Soon afterwards a two-story Court House was erected on the square. John MacAuley was the architect of these public structures, as well as most of the public buildings then erected. In this condition, Bartow remained with but little additional improvements, a mere village for many years—the county town of a sparsely settled county of vast area, being some fifty by sixty miles square. David Hughes and W. T. Carpenter conducted the two retail or general stores of the place. The court house and school buildings were used for church purposes as well as all public gatherings. John Davidson, Nathan A. Blount and Benjamin F. Blount were the principal county officers from time to time. During this period Bartow at no time had a population in excess of 150. The town remained in this somnolent condition until 1880 or 1881, when immigration to Florida began to show a marked increase, finally reaching into Polk County. From this time there was a steady and continuous growth.

In 1881, then, we find David L. Hughes and W. T. Carpenter operating general stores, the only institutions of the kind in an area of many miles. About this time a drug store was also being conducted by F. F. Beville. W. T. Carpenter also conducted a hotel, and there were two or three boarding houses. There were two church organizations, the Baptist and Methodist—but no church building. There was a postoffice, and eleven mails a week were received. There was a telegraph office, two doctors and one lawyer. There was no jail. There had been one at an earlier day, but it had fallen into disuse and decay. However, it was said that one was needed.

A barroom had been in operation, but in 1881 Hiram D. Ballard disposed of the lot and building where liquor had been sold, and as the license had recently been raised so high as to render the business unprofitable, it was hoped that the liquor traffic might be at an end in Bartow for some time to come. Drinking evidently did not cease, however, as we note a complaint of much firing off pistols at night on the streets, and other disorders.

Bacon was 11 cents a pound; lard, 15 cents; flour, 6¼ cents; sugar, 12½ cents; coffee, 20 cents. Aside from these staples, there were few articles of food included in the local stocks.

The school was ably conducted by D. C. Kantz. It was even then known as Summerlin Institute.

Mrs. N. C. Gresham was postmistress; a little later she was assisted by Dr. Waldron, as deputy. A new postoffice was completed in 1882, and lock and open boxes were installed.

The only lawyer in the community early in 1881 was John Snoddy. During the year, however, two others were added—a Mr. King and Judge G. A. Hanson. The two physicians were Dr. E. C. Morton and Dr. J. H. Verdier. The latter died during the year. Dr. D. C. Ferguson and Dr. J. P. Statham arrived in 1882.

Transportation was by horseback or wagon. One could travel from Orlando to Bartow by the mail buggy for $7; the fare from Tampa to Bartow "by private subscription" was $10—by wagon $2, if the passenger furnished rations. "Uncle Bob" McKinney ran his buggy between Bartow and Fort Meade during court week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, for the convenience of persons attending court.

In December, 1881, Dan McLeod and son, A. P. McLeod, Wm. McLeod, L. B. Bush and M. Atwell, from Barbour County, Alabama, arrived in wagons—as did practically all those who came to settle at that time.

There was a lively business in town lots, which sold for from $30 to $50, while lands three miles from the town brought from $1.25 to $5. Improvement was the order of the day. Mrs. M. L. Snoddy opened a ladies' store early in 1882. Dr. J. P. Brookins, a dentist, came in and opened a drug store, the Bartow Drug House, and T. M. Lybass opened a "Liquor Saloon." There was opposition to the latter enterprise, the ladies circulating a petition against it; but Mr. Lybass seems to have won out, as he advertised his establishment as "a place to get your little brown jug or flask filled as preventive for snake bite."

W. H. Pearce, near Bartow, had what was considered one of the most vigorous and symmetrical orange groves in the State.

A citizens' meeting to consider incorporating the town of Bartow was held May 3, 1882. Capt. David Hughes was chairman and J. H. Humphries, secretary. It was decided to incorporate, and W. H. Pearce, F. F. Beville and J. H. Humphries were appointed a committee to fix the boundaries and arrange for the election. On July 1, 1882, the election was held, resulting as follows: J. H. Humphries, mayor; C. C. Gresham, marshal; W. T. Carpenter, clerk and treasurer; D. Hughes, D. W. Smith, Streety Parker, F. F. Beville and G. A. Hanson, councilmen. The council organized by electing Capt. D. Hughes chairman. Mayor Humphries tendered his resignation in September, 1882, on account of leaving for Lexington, Virginia, to complete a law course.

Late in 1882, the growth of the community was reflected in the increased postal business. At that time there were 500 letters a week sent off, and probably as many received.

Many houses were built during the year, but there was a demand for more. In January, 1883, Capt. Hughes had torn away his old house, preparatory to the erection of "a magnificent new residence that will cost over $3,000 and be an ornament to Bartow." It was finished in June, and was by far the finest dwelling in Bartow, if not in the county.

On February 6, 1883, Dr. J. P. Statham was elected Mayor, Mr. Kilpatrick marshal, and Messrs. Lyle, Eugene Blount and Dr. Brookins, councilmen.

Early in 1883 there were four general stores, one drug store and another being built, one millinery store and another soon to be started, and in the year there had been erected some 25 dwellings, five business houses and a sawmill, two churches and a parsonage. More than 40 new families had been added. However, there was no public school in operation at the time.

Boys would be boys in those days. The editor of the Bartow Informant, however, was not willing to let it go at that, for he refers to some of them as "sleek-faced young scamps, who are training for outlaws and cut-throats in the near future, or for a penitentiary cell." The editor's wrath was occasioned by a series of incidents, such as the placing upon the community Christmas tree of a pack of cards and a bottle of whiskey for a venerable minister, who had been waging war on liquor. On the same occasion an empty whiskey bottle was suspended over the head of another minister. Later, too, when a visiting minister was preaching at the court house, a cat with a tin can tied to its tail was sent into the audience, and, as may be imagined, caused considerable distraction and diverted attention from the speaker. The same offenders, it was believed, persisted in breaking into the calaboose and releasing the prisoners. The editor was outspoken against such doings and thundered anathemas at the perpetrators.

A stage line between Bartow and Tampa was established in 1882. There was a thrice-a-week service. The stage would leave Bartow, for instance, at 6 o'clock Monday morning, reaching Tampa at 8 that night, returning to Bartow on the same schedule the next day. The fare was $7 for the first round-trip, $6 for the second and $5 for the third. Whether this system was carried through further, until finally one could take the trip without cost, does not appear.

In March, 1883, the calaboose was set on fire and destroyed. A reward of $150 was offered by the town council for the guilty party. J. W. Trammell, who had recently come to the section from Alabama, was immediately given the contract to build another local bastile.

A Methodist church building was dedicated on Sunday, March 9, 1883, this being Bartow's first house of worship. Rev. W. C. Jordan officiated, assisted by Rev. P. R. McCrary and Rev. S. B. Carson. An organ and bell had been secured through the efforts of the ladies. The occasion was memorable, and one of deep gratification to the citizens, irrespective of denomination. On April 1st of the same year the Baptists dedicated their church, this being the second church building erected in Bartow.

A military company was organized early in June, 1883. J. W. Critchton was elected captain; T. L. Hughes, first lieutenant; F. F. Beville, second lieutenant; A. T. Mann, first sergeant. The company was called the Bartow Rifles.

Tuscan Lodge No. 6, F. & A. M., was organized in 1883. The officers for the first year were: Streety Parker, W. M.; Perry O'Keen, S. W.; Wm. M. McAuley, J. W.; W. H. Johnson, Treas.; Francis M. Beville, Sec.; Thos. W. Lucas, S. D.; Wm. Sherretz, J. D.; John J. Bunch, Tyler. There were thirty members. The lodge really existed under dispensation for several years prior to the date of the charter, which is January 18, 1883. A Masonic Lodge was first organized in Bartow on June 12, 1865. On that date thirteen men, doubtless most of them back from the war, and all except one members of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, F. & A. M., met in Bartow and organized Bartow Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M. The first set of officers of that lodge were: R. M. Pylant, W. M.; Robert Wilkinson, S. W.; Samuel C. Craft, J. W.; Jasper Summerlin, Treas.; J. M. Hayman, Sec.; A. P. Hampton, S. D.; W. R. Hollingsworth, J. D.; James T. Wilson, Tyler; T. J. Kinney and Louis Lanier, Stewards. These men were all county builders.

By midsummer, 1883, Bartow's population had increased to about 400. There were two churches, two hotels, two steam sawmills, four general stores, a drug store, a millinery store, a livery stable, blacksmith and wheelwright's shops, a baker's shop and a saloon.

About July 1, 1883, B. J. Oeland, of South Carolina, arrived to take charge of the Bartow telegraph office, relieving Mr. Pearce. Mr. Oeland held this office continuously for 41 years, and is at the time of this publication still an honored resident of Bartow. He married Miss Mary E. Blount in January, 1884.

J. D. Baskin was elected Mayor in July, 1883.

Far-seeing folk began to visualize the need of a cemetery. "There are old people among us who will die sometime," was one of the forecasts.

In August, 1883, Thomas L. Wilson stood his examination, which was conducted by Gen. J. B. Wall and Col. S. M. Sparkman, and was admitted to the bar.

About this time, M. D. L. Mayo was engaged in bringing goods from Tampa to Bartow, and used ten wagon teams on this work. The distance was but 45 miles, but this hauling, it was estimated, cost the community $35 a day.

Mrs. Gresham, the postmistress, died in August, 1883, and C. C. Gresham became postmaster.

Bartow, which has always taken much interest in local baseball, had a good club as early as the summer of 1883.

Kissingen Springs was then known as DeLeon Springs. An amusement enterprise was operated there in the summer of 1883 by Dr. J. A. Huddleston.

H. W. Snell, who arrived in Bartow early in 1882, was conducting an important store there in 1883. In November of that year he was married to Miss Ida Kent, of Wrightsville, Ga.

In 1883, S. A. Jones & Company, who operated in Tampa also, and F. F. Beville, were the two contractors who did most of the building in Bartow; Mrs. Edna Hayman opened a stock of millinery and notions; Dr. W. S. Rudisill, dentist, located in the community; Mrs. G. E. Mann purchased the general store of J. O'C. Blount; the St. Marks Hotel was opened by Mrs. G. M. Gates; and Bartow was feeling the need of a bank.

In January, 1884, there was a masked ball at Hooker's Hall—perhaps Bartow's most elaborate social affair up to that time. It was noted that the music was splendid, being "rendered by those skilled artists, Mr. Frank Fuller and Miss Lois Fuller." Mr. Frank Fuller still resides in this county, near Auburndale; Miss Fuller was the famous "Loie Fuller" of the stage, then visiting at Auburndale, later winning fame and fortune, with intimate contact even with the courts of royalty.

On January 17, 1884, all records for quick transportation were broken when R. T. Kilpatrick ate breakfast in Sanford and supper in Bartow the same night. In February, 1884, transportation facilities had increased to such an extent that it was possible to make the trip from Jacksonville to Bartow in 24 hours.

A dairy was badly needed in 1884. The price of milk was $1.00 per gallon, but it was hard to get.

In April, 1884, Dr. Frank Wilson set up the practice of medicine.

By May, 1884, the population of Bartow had increased to nearly 1,000, as against perhaps 100 two years before. In the same month the town council decided to establish racks on the streets for hitching horses.

Notwithstanding the character of the roads, three to five hacks were run daily between Lakeland and Bartow, and were always filled with passengers.

Streety Parker died at Bartow, October 2, 1884. He had been a resident of the county for about forty years. Lake Parker, at Lakeland, was named for him.

Bartow had been awaiting the advent of the railroad with eager anticipation. In 1884 work was begun on a branch of the South Florida railroad from Bartow Junction to the county seat. Capt. J. L. Morgan had the contract for its construction. The road was completed very early in 1885, and train service began January 25th of that year, thus giving Bartow its first rail connection with the world. The occasion was one of great gratification, and there was a celebration which attracted people from all over the county, many of whom saw a train for the first time. "Among those present" were a number of Seminole Indians, who were greatly interested in the spectacle.

In December, 1884, oranges for shipment were coming into Bartow at the rate of 40,000 to 50,000 per day. Individual oranges were counted, not boxes.

There was not a dwelling or business house for rent during this period.

In 1885 it was said that the *Bartow Informant* and the *Tampa Tribune* were the best papers in the State.

A freight and passenger station was built in the spring of 1885; also an express office was established. Bartow at this time claimed 1,000 inhabitants.

In June, 1885, J. B. Mitchell, of Bartow, was bitten by a rattlesnake four feet long. He immediately chewed up a plug of tobacco and swallowed the juice, and suffered no bad consequences because of the bite or its remedy.

The Mills House, of Bartow, was struck by lightning on the night of August 1, 1885. Mr. McEwan, who was in the building, had one of his shoes torn to shreds, and his socks burned from his feet, but aside from a slight burn, was uninjured.

In May, 1886, two brothers—Dan and Lonnie Mann—killed A. S. Campbell, marshal of Bartow, and dangerously wounded his assistant, Jack McCormick.

The Mann brothers had gotten into a dispute with a Mr. Johnson, who kept a saloon, and when the officers tried to quiet them, Lonnie shot McCormick in the head, and Dan shot Campbell in the breast. The latter was killed instantly, but McCormick recovered. The Manns jumped into their buggy and fled, but were followed by a large crowd, captured and placed in jail. There was much excitement, and that night a large party of men stormed the jail, and hung the brothers from a nearby tree. The people of Bartow made up a handsome purse for Mrs. Campbell.

In 1887 Bartow claimed 2,000 population. There were then three church buildings, two town halls, a bank, 24 stores, 5 leading hotels, a laundry and an ice plant.

In June, 1887, yellow fever having been declared epidemic at Key West, Bartow adopted quarantine measures.

An effort to run a steamer line to Bartow—or, at least to Kissingen Spring—was made in 1887. Capt. Hall ran his steamboat "Shipman" up the Peace river to Fort Meade, and negotiated the channel on up to Kissingen in a skiff.

Joe Humphries, long prominent in Bartow, and Miss Emma Blount were married in November, 1887. A few months later he went to Bradentown and established the *Manatee River Journal,* which, with some intermissions, he conducted until his death, a few years ago.

How quickly effete influences follow in the wake of development is shown by the fact that Bartow, only a few years before a pioneer village, had a manicurist in 1888 in the person of Florence Brewster.

In 1887 R. Hudson Burr was a resident of Bartow; G. P. Freeman was, and had for some time been, Bartow's photographer; and H. D. McLeod was operating a sawmill.

Mrs. Beulah R. Stephens, wife of G. A. K. Stephens, formerly editor of the *Informant,* was the poet laureate and literary genius of Bartow about this period. Her contributions to the Bartow papers were much above the average in merit, and later she developed a successful literary career.

The Bartow Rifles came to life again, the following being officers of the company in March, 1888: Captain, W. L. Jewell; first lieutenant, L. H. Rider; second lieutenant, Warren Tyler; second lieutenant, F. W. Bosworth.

There was a considerable fire in Bartow during this year, the block south of the postoffice being burned. This was not a permanent disaster, the wooden houses burned being replaced by more substantial buildings.

The Polk County Bank was organized in 1886, with a capital of $25,000. Frank W. Page was president; Willard J. Emerson, cashier. Evidently the bank did not urge the editor to borrow, as we note the paper states "a first-class bank could do a rushing business in Bartow." The editor evidently heard from this squib, as in his next issue he printed a lengthy explanation, standing pat on his statement, however. At the time, the Polk County Bank was the farthest south in Florida. It became a national bank in 1888.

In June, 1887, Mayor J. N. Smith vetoed an ordinance that would have granted a franchise to the "People's Street Railway Company."

Bartow had a Board of Trade at this time, with E. W. Codington, president; D. D. Stanley, vice-president; W. J. Emmerson, J. N. Hooker and L. S. Oppenheimer, directors.

In July, 1887, D. J. Baskin was elected mayor; J. N. Hooker, J. O'C. Blount, and C. E. Reed, aldermen; D. Quinn, clerk and treasurer; J. K. Stuart, tax assessor, and J. F. McCormick, marshal.

During the first six months of 1888, W. J. Pearce, a mighty hunter, killed eleven deer and sold them in Bartow for a total of $70.50. He lived only ten miles from Bartow, and some of the deer killed were in five miles of the town. That was only forty years ago.

The Bartow cornet band gave a concert every Sunday afternoon during the summer of 1888.

In August, 1888, there was the annual yellow fever scare, customary in those years, and Bartow had a run-in with the United States government on account of it. Armed men stopped the train bearing mail, and because the latter had not been fumigated, it was sent back. Bartow seems to have won out, and received her mail fumigated or not at all. Quarantine was rigidly enforced by both Bartow and Lakeland.

Captain David Hughes, pioneer citizen, and one of Bartow's first merchants, died January 19, 1889.

In midsummer of 1893 Bartow claimed 2,500 people, and had two railroads. Clay of superior quality having been discovered in the vicinity, it was decided to grade and clay the streets. "Bartow macadam" was the name given to this clay, which later figured prominently in the construction of Polk's road system. With the coming of the smooth streets, bicycling became the favorite method of locomotion in Bartow.

A new pump, in front of the court house was an improvement noted. It was thought, however, that "the authorities might have gone a step farther and had a cup for the use of the public. This could be secured by a chain, and stop the present method of sucking the water from a nozzle."

For some time now, there had been appeals to the powers to "cage the night cow." A compromise was agreed upon, bulls and cows with bells on being prohibited the use of the streets. Later the regulation was extended to forbid the cattle roaming on the streets at night.

While Marquis and Garrett were making strong efforts to be appointed postmaster, Senator Pasco, ignoring both these applicants, endorsed for the position J. N. Hooker, who was not an applicant at all. L. J. Marquis finally captured the plum.

In the fall of 1893, an election was held on the proposition to issue bonds as follows: For school improvement, $7,000; for streets, $8,000; for waterworks, $15,000. *The Advance-Courier* opposed the proposition, and the controversy between the editor and Mayor Codington was heated. The bonds carried by a fair majority.

In advocating the bonds just mentioned, Mayor Codington declared that there was not then a man, woman or child in Bartow who was a proper object of

charity, not even excepting the colored population. He stated that no case of destitution had been brought before him during his tenure of office as Mayor.

A bird's-eye glance at conditions in Bartow, during the year 1893, shows that everybody was going to the World's Fair at Chicago; a new passenger depot was erected at the east end of Main street; the Farmer's Alliance was opening a store in Bartow; the postal receipts of the office amounted to $4,936.29; F. B. Terrell was making such handsome wagons that they were written up in the newspaper; the Bartow Military Company, which had gone into a periodical dormancy, was about to revive; the Tatum Bros. were starting a new laundry; Mrs. L. B. Epperson had bought Mrs. Walker's millinery business; Jacob Summerlin, Bartow's founder, died on November 5th.

The horse had not yet been dethroned, and the hire of "rigs" was still an important business. Lightsey & Lewis had a livery stable with space for forty buggies and carriages.

Baseball furnished much interest, the local team making a tour of the State, playing clubs at Ocala, Gainesville, and other places. Arnold Armistead was one of the crack ball players of the Bartow team. That was before he moved to Lakeland.

H. W. Pender was leader of the german at the opera house. The german was a popular dance of the time. Mr. Pender was long the leading photographer of Lakeland, moving there in December, 1893.

In the fall of 1893, Gen. E. M. Law came to Bartow, having visited Florida with the view of finding a location for a military institute. After some negotiations, he decided to establish the South Florida Military School, which he opened in September, 1894.

Wearing "hats as large as cart-wheels" by the ladies, called for a protest on the part of patrons of the opera house.

Orange Pound was the unique name of one of Bartow's good citizens.

In April, 1894, D. W. Proctor, while hunting quail in the vicinity of Bartow, was bitten by a rattlesnake, from the effects of which he died in a few hours.

Dr. J. N. Smith was elected Mayor in an election held May 1. E. W. Codington had been nominated by what was claimed to be a "snap convention," and the "anti-snaps" nominated Dr. Smith and elected him. A short time thereafter an attempt was made to assassinate Dr. Smith, some unknown person firing at him in the darkness as he sat on his doorstep.

The Bartow Drug Company was organized in June, 1894, J. H. Watson, F. M. Wilson and J. M. Oglesby being the incorporators.

Capt. R. E. Rose, afterwards State Chemist for many years, was married to Miss Mary Anna Morgan at Kissimmee, July 18, 1884, and came immediately to Bartow to make his home.

Bartow clay enabled that city to have the best streets in the State at that time. Tampa officials came out to inspect Bartow's streets, and the clay or "macadam" was shipped to several cities for paving purposes. The bicycle craze was rampant. A Bartow paper of that time remarks that "bicycles don't care who owns them—even kids and coons are riding them now." S. M. Tatum was reported as having "the latest bicycle in town."

The Bartow Board of Trade, which had been somnolent for a while, was reorganized, with E. L. Roche president, E. W. Codington vice-president, D. Warwick Stanley secretary.

In November, 1894, Mayor J. N. Smith was requested to resign, because it was alleged that he patronized blind tigers. The matter was tabled at the meeting of November 8th, but it was passed at the next meeting, by a vote of 3 to 2.

The Home Building and Loan Association was organized in September, 1894. E. W. Codington was president; E. L. Roche, vice-president; J. W. Boyd, secretary; J. H. Watson, treasurer.

In 1894, Bartow had no vacant houses, and more were needed to accommodate the people; E. E. Skipper took a trip to Europe; Brady and Olliphant dissolved their law partnership; table board at the Mabbett hotel—one of Bartow's best hostelries—could be had for four dollars per week; C. E. Reed, who operated the Bartow Tube Well Works, was the leading plumber; the city advertised for from 300 to 1,000 oaks to plant as shade trees; the Polk County National Bank had deposits aggregating $100,000; Miss Sudie Baird was one of Bartow's prettiest belles—she is now Mrs. George M. Wright, of Lakeland; McKendrie Tucker was the express agent; and Ben Bradley was writing poetry for the papers.

In February, 1895, the waterworks system was completed. This was an important event in the life of Bartow. The officials of the city at that time were: J. N. Smith, mayor; D. W. Stanley, clerk and treasurer; Jefferson Varn, city attorney; E. W. Codington, Waterworks Commissioner; Warren Tyler, chairman of the council; B. B. Tatum, D. E. Freeman, J. T. Carson, T. L. Wilson, T. L. Hughes and Frank Clark, councilmen. B. J. C. Howe, Sr., and his son, B. J. C. Howe, Jr., were the contractors to install the plant.

A volunteer fire department, consisting of two hose companies, and a hook and ladder company, was organized in April. R. L. Rogers was elected chief; W. P. Talmadge, assistant chief; W. O. Jordan, secretary and treasurer; Ira Fields, janitor. The city purchased a hose cart, and E. W. Codington presented the department with another. The office of fire chief was created in December, 1895, and E. W. Codington was appointed chief, and J. Mont Reed assistant chief. The new waterworks and fire department came into good play shortly after they came into being. Terrell's Wagon Works burned early in May, but the fire was prevented from spreading. The whole town was threatened.

Dr. R. H. Huddleston sold a half interest in Kissingen Spring in February, 1895, to M. F. Brown, the "Economy Bin" man, for $25,000. It was the intention of the owners to put in a bottling establishment and market the water, but the project apparently did not progress far.

Frank Clark, who had been a resident of Bartow for a number of years, received an appointment as District Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, and had to change his residence. G. A. K. Stephens was named as councilman to fill out Mr. Clark's unexpired term.

In March, 1895, Miss Mollie Stanley, with a visitor, Miss Ruth Craven, of Ringgold, Georgia, and Mr. C. F. Carpenter, went out to Lake Hancock to fish. They brought back a ten-foot alligator. Mr. Carpenter shot and wounded the

'gator, then turned the gun over to the ladies, who finished the saurian, becoming heroines of the hour.

Rev. W. B. Dye, who for years had been pastor of the Baptist church at Bartow, died in February, 1895.

Pedestrians, even in these days, were wondering if they had any rights. Jacob Fretz, an aged citizen, was knocked down on the streets by a team.

In the spring of 1895, the following city officers were elected: Mayor, E. C. Stuart; clerk and treasurer, D. W. Stanley; marshal, C. E. Jones; tax assessor, George E. Walker; tax collector, H. L. Davis; councilmen, H. T. Dial, U. A. Lightsey, J. P. Glover.

In 1895 Bartow celebrated July 4th on the 3rd. This was done so as not to interfere with neighboring cities which had planned events for the Fourth. The bicycle figured largely in the exercises. Miss Maude Wright and Mr. Allie Wilson were awarded prizes as the most graceful riders. There were several bicycle races. In the main races, Allie Wilson won first prize, and Mel Wilson, second.

J. P. Murdaugh and Miss Mattie Dial were married August 18th. The young couple ostensibly went for a drive, and the wedding took place in the shade of the trees near McKinney Branch, where they had arranged for Rev. R. L. Honiker and Mr. A. R. Forsyth to meet them.

Baseball held much interest throughout this summer and fall, and there were games with Kissimmee, Orlando, Gainesville, Tampa, etc. The game was taken seriously in Florida at that time—so much so that an editor at Gainesville, who criticised an umpire, was arrested on a charge of criminal libel.

In August, Ben Rice, a notorious character of the county, was killed by a negro in a gambling quarrel at Land Pebble. He had been an habitual offender, and had a long criminal record.

Prof. Hood, of Summerlin Institute, with his class in botany, made a collection of over 200 flowers and plants of Polk, and nearly 100 kinds of woods. Active in assisting the professor were John Swearingen and Erle Wirt.

Some incidents of 1895: There was an effort to get a telephone line to Bartow; Dr. L. S. Oppenheimer, who had been one of the leading surgeons for some years, removed to Tampa; everybody was selling the "Economy Flour Bin;" Bartow entertained the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows in March; John Swearingen celebrated his 17th birthday at the home of his brother, W. D., on May 20th; Sol Page was making fine crop records; Bartow's tax rate was 10 mills; William Lyle was one of the county's most progressive farmers; G. A. K. Stephens removed to Abbeville, Georgia.

The Bartow Dramatic Club gave some entertainments, and like all home talent players, they were "better than professionals."

A cigar factory was established by Carlton & Streeter in January, 1896. The firm dissolved after a short time, and Mr. Streeter later operated a factory in Lakeland.

Bartow held another big bicycle tournament on February 27, 1896. The prizes were won by Ferris, of Tampa, and Wirt, of Bartow.

In April, 1896, the following municipal ticket was nominated and later elected: B. F. Jackson, mayor; S. G. Wilson, clerk and treasurer; D. W. Stanley, collector; G. E. Walker, assessor; W. S. Dial, marshal; Warren Tyler, G. W. Smith, Wm. Lyle, and J. L. Wirt, councilmen.

McKendrie Tucker, son of Judge Epps Tucker, was the bicycle champion of the times. He was the winner in numerous races.

Byron S. Ashley moved to Bartow to take up the practice of law. He had been farming successfully in the Waverly neighborhood. He was a strong free silver advocate, his contributions on the subject being voluminous. Weymss Jackson, of Fort Meade, was Mr. Ashley's most active adversary in this controversy, which lasted throughout the campaign.

Solon G. Wilson stood his final examination, and was admitted to the practice of law in September, 1896.

Uncle Ben Moody, one of the earliest settlers of the county, died October 13th, in his 86th year. He was the father of Mrs. Benjamin F. Blount.

The Board of Trade awoke from one of its periodical naps in October, 1896, and was active in the advocacy of good roads, and in fostering tobacco culture. In January, 1897, Col. E. L. Roche was re-elected president; E. W. Codington, vice-president; W. R. Anno, second vice-president; E. C. Stuart, D. E. Freeman, T. L. Hughes, and C. C. Wilson, directors.

A band was organized in the fall of 1896, C. L. Huddleston heading the movement, with the following members: L. Franklin, H. R. Bivins, Epps Tucker, Guy Culver, Max Hankins, W. O. Jordan, George H. Wright, Frank Blount, R. M. Highman, John Swearingen, C. L. Huddleston, Jim Steele, J. H. Gwiner.

Christopher W. Dudley, aged 15, was killed by the accidental discharge of his gun while hunting December 28th. He was a son of G. L. Dudley.

Looking back over the record of 1896 we find: W. T. Whitledge very active in real estate; Dr. J. M. Oglesby, the leading surgeon; Henry Payne, a very enterprising merchant; many shade trees being planted on the streets; J. Mont Reid appointed fire chief by E. W. Codington, resigned; Fred Gemme continuing to be the town's tonsorial artist; H. T. Dial still furnishing much of the material for building.

An electric light plant was projected by W. H. Towles in February, 1897. The plant being located near the city waterworks, Mr. Towles contracted to do the pumping for the city also. The electric lights were turned on April 18, 1897, making a big forward step in the city's history.

David Hilderley invented several useful articles, on which he secured patents.

In March, 1897, a Library Association was formed with 61 members, and the following executive committee: Dr. G. H. Perrine, president; Mrs. E. W. Codington, vice-president; Miss Julia Ham, secretary and treasurer; E. W. Codington and B. S. Ashley. It was decided to purchase some books at once, which would be rented to patrons. In the fall of the same year the following officers of the association were elected: Prof. W. H. Hood, president; Mrs. E. W. Codington, vice-president; Prof. J. A. Williams, secretary; Dr. J. S. Wade, treasurer; Mrs. B. F. Holland, Mrs. G. H. Perrine, Mrs. B. B. Tatum, executive committee. Start-

ing with this organization, the library idea seems to have been permanent, culminating in the possession by the city of its present excellent Carnegie Library.

Many entertainments were given for the benefit of the Library. When we noted that the Association sponsored a debate on the all-important question as to whether the school house burned up, or burned down, we were hopeful that this vexed point had been permanently settled. It is to be regretted, however, that the judges, after weighing all the arguments of the affirmative and negative sides, left the matter rather up in the air, by deciding that the school house burned up and also burned down. E. W. Codington and J. W. Brady represented the "up", and B. S. Ashley and Jefferson Varn the "down" side.

In March, 1897, the Southern Express Co.'s office was robbed of $2,500, two packages aggregating that sum having been taken from the safe. Although $500 reward for the apprehension of the thief was offered by the company, the mystery was never satisfactorily solved.

In April, the following officers were chosen to serve the municipality for the ensuing year: H. P. Logan, mayor; C. C. Gresham, marshal; G. E. Walker, assessor; D. W. Stanley, clerk; U. A. Lightsey, D. E. Freeman, and W. M. Burdine, councilmen.

The graduates of Summerlin in 1897 were: Misses Katie Blount and Effie Forsythe, and John Swearingen.

At Joe Skipper's store in Bartow, Clark & Wilson, tobacco growers, paid off the little colored boys, who had wormed the firm's tobacco crop. One Saturday night in May, 1897, the boys were paid for catching 43,475 worms, at 25 cents per hundred.

Bartow had her Fourth of July celebration on July 17th of this year. There were bicycle races, trotting horse races, foot races, and other sports. In a game of baseball, Bartow was victorious over Orlando.

There was a "Horse Swappers' Convention" in November. W. R. Ritter was adjudged the best swapper. W. H. Johnson was marshal of the day, and ex-Senator E. M. Hammond was orator. J. L. Skipper and Ed Singletary won the fat men's race.

H. E. Memminger, who had just graduated from Auburn (Ala.) Institute, as an electrical engineer, came to Bartow to spend the winter with his brother, C. G. Memminger, who was living there.

In 1897, Uncle Billy Hankins was a noted hunter; every garden plot in Bartow was devoted to tobacco culture; Chas. E. Earnest was doing a flourishing mercantile business; and in November, Jas. Harden was appointed postmaster.

On January 5, 1898, there was a showing in Bartow—as in other Florida cities—of the wonderful "Biograph," a machine that presented living pictures—that is, "the characters portrayed are moving, and the effect is wonderfully realistic. The exhibition was pronounced the most wonderful exhibition of the age, and truly so, for when the pictures are thrown on the screen, they do not appear to be pictures but real life."

Captain T. W. Gary, who had gone up to South Carolina, and there married Miss Willie Cassells, returned with his bride to Bartow on January 7, 1898, and a New Year's ball was given in honor of the couple—a brilliant social affair.

The Bartow Band, which had been quiet for a while, again made a noise early in 1898. The members at this time were: L. Franklin, leader; George Wright, John Swearingen, Epps Tucker, Fred Gemme, Roy Bushnell, J. B. Bowers, J. B. Wilson, Allie Wilson, Sam Dunlap, J. N. Baggett and three Messrs. Chaille—Joe, Floyd and Lloyd.

Municipal officers selected in April, 1898, were: H. P. Logan, mayor; D. W. Stanley, clerk and treasurer; G. E. Walker, assessor; P. W. Daniels, collector; R. P. Henderson, C. E. Bayley, E. C. Stuart and Warren Tyler, councilmen.

The martial spirit was awakening, with the war with Spain looming large, and Capt. W. L. Law was organizing a military company, while W. H. Johnson was getting the Home Guards in line.

At the close of Summerlin Institute in May, 1898, Miss Maude Hooker was salutatorian, and Miss Mattie M. VanFleet was valedictorian.

In the summer of 1898, an exodus began from Bartow and other parts of Polk to the promising young city of Miami.

W. T. Carpenter, a resident of Polk since 1866, and either the first or second merchant in Bartow—this distinction seemingly belonging either to him or David Hughes—died in Bartow August 31, in his 82nd year.

Sam M. Wilson and Henry B. Blount opened a drug store in September.

Hugh Blount and Streety Smith, who were with the U. S. troops in Cuba, died there in September, 1898—the first named of fever, the latter through accidentally shooting himself.

James S. Day kept the papers supplied with news of the boys in Cuba who were with Ray's Regiment, through frequent letters. Mel Wilson also wrote interestingly from time to time.

C. A. Boswell stood the examination, and was admitted to the practice of law in October, 1898. The following March he was engaged in his first real case, which he won. A Dr. Weightnovel had sued the Medical Board of this district for $10,000 damages because the Board had refused him a license to practice medicine. Mr. Boswell represented the Board and won the case.

Edward W. Barber, of Jackson, Michigan, and associates, organized a company and started a cigar factory in Bartow early in 1899. The factory lived and died, and is forgotten, but Mr. Barber, at this writing, still lives on the shores of Crooked Lake, and in July, 1928, will attain his 100th birthday. He was for many years owner and editor of the Jackson (Mich.) *Daily Patriot*, and for decades was a consistent booster for Florida and Polk County.

Ben Bradley was long the poet-laureate of Bartow, the war with Spain inciting his Muse to special flights in 1898.

On May 2, 1899, the entire city government was re-elected, the same persons serving in the various municipal offices as during the year preceding. Warren Tyler was chairman of the council for the eighth successive year.

Dr. C. L. Mitchell, long the leading physician of Fort Meade, moved to Bartow and became a partner with Dr. F. M. Wilson in May of this year. He died the following March.

A military company—the Oak City Guards—was organized in Bartow in July, 1899. W. L. Law was captain; Warren Tyler, first lieutenant; W. Lacy Boyd, second lieutenant; Erle S. Wirt, first sergeant.

The volunteer fire department was reorganized in August, 1899. Two companies were formed—T. A. Price being captain of Co. 1, and J. C. Potter being captain of Co. 2.

The library continued to be a helpful and interesting institution, and Ziba King, the wealthy cattle man of Arcadia, was allowing it to occupy a building he owned, without rent.

During 1898 and 1899, many residents of Polk, particularly of Bartow, moved to Miami and most of them prospered there. Among those leaving Bartow for the new and promising city of the East Coast were B. B. Tatum, editor of the *Courier-Informant;* the Annos, the Burdines, the Quartermans, the Whalers, the Montforts, the Rutherfords, etc.

In 1899, Gen. E. M. Law was elected Commander of the Confederate Veterans of the State; a clay road from Bartow to Mulberry was agitated; Mr. and Mrs. Solon G. Wilson both had handsome new bicycles; a private telephone line was installed from the residence of C. G. Memminger to the Palmetto Phosphate mines, and also to the mines at Tiger Bay; and the scholarly S. S. Green was one of the county's literary lights.

The city officials chosen in May, 1900, were: W. H. Johnson, mayor; D. W. Stanley, clerk and treasurer; P. W. Daniel, collector; G. E. Walker, assessor; J. R. Wiggins, Warren Tyler, E. C. Stuart, J. M. Lowry, C. E. Bayley, councilmen.

D. E. Freeman, who had been railroad agent at Bartow for fifteen years, and otherwise prominent in the life of the city, was transferred to Tampa in May.

The Bartow Strawberry Growers' Association was organized in 1900, with W. H. Johnson, president, and W. J. J. Whidden, secretary.

C. G. Memminger, who had been a resident of Bartow for some years, and a prominent factor in the development of the phosphate industry, removed to Nashville to engage in business there.

In 1900 a telephone exchange was being talked of; the cigar factory which had been operated by Byron S. Ashley removed to Tampa; Dexter Summerlin bought the Crystal Ice Works from E. W. Codington; Luther Johnson was studying law with H. K. Olliphant; J. W. Brady was appointed Florida Commissioner for the Paris Exposition.

At the K. of P. carnival, held in January, 1901, Miss Lula Wright was chosen and crowned Queen of the Carnival, and Misses Billie Boyd, Corrie Jordan, Knox Moore and Janie Belle Palmer were selected as Maids of Honor.

City officers elected in May, 1901, were: Mayor, W. H. Johnson; aldermen, J. R. Wiggins, U. A. Lightsey, Dr. J. S. Wade; assessor, G. E. Walker; collector, P. W. Daniel; clerk and treasurer, D. W. Stanley.

A baby show was held in May, 1901, and Anna Laura Wilson, daughter of Hon. C. C. Wilson, was given a silver spoon for beauty, a similar prize being captured by Master James W. Williams, son of Prof. and Mrs. J. Walter Williams. Harry M. Wear was awarded a pair of cuff buttons as the handsomest young man,

and a cake spoon was given to Miss Creola Lamareaux as the most beautiful young lady.

In May, 1901, while fishing from the bridge across Peace river, a mile east of Bartow, a young white woman of the neighborhood was assaulted by a negro, who killed his victim and threw the body in the swamp. The negro, Frank Rochelle, escaped, but through the aid of some of his own race, was captured the following day, and was burned at the stake.

An interview with merchants in the summer of 1901, disclosed that all were doing a splendid business, except Mr. VanFleet, who sold newspapers and magazines. Mr. VanFleet held that business was so good with everyone else they had no time for reading, hence his business alone was dull.

A two-story brick school building was contracted for in August, 1901.

William Lyle, for many years one of the most active growers and shippers of the county, died October 7, 1901. His large interests were placed in charge of C. H. Walker.

Wilson & Bowers and Charles E. Earnest, Jr., were the live merchants in the community at this period. The latter has continued to be a leading mercantile factor through many years.

On January 21, 1902, Mayor W. H. Johnson, of Bartow, called up Mayor Wing, of Tampa, and messages of good-will on behalf of the two cities were exchanged by their executives, thus inaugurating long distance telephone service in Bartow. The Peninsular Telephone Company's exchange in Bartow was formally opened February 11, 1902, and it was an occasion of much rejoicing. There was one operator—Mrs. Ella Clark.

The Stuart building, a brick block, corner Main street and Central avenue, was completed in February, 1902. The brick was made by a plant owned by Mr. Stuart, and the building was, in all respects, a credit to the city.

Bartow had its first moving picture show—a one-night affair—in February, 1902, but the people were not pleased with some of the "illustrations."

The Board of Trade had one of its periodical awakenings and reorganizations in 1902. E. W. Codington was elected president, and E. C. Stuart, vice-president. The need of a tourist hotel was the reason for the renewed activity. The Bartow Hotel Company, with a capital of $25,000, was the outgrowth of this movement, which ultimately resulted in the building of the Hotel Oaks.

Luther C. Johnson was admitted to the practice of law at the March, 1902, term of the circuit court.

A mass meeting in April, 1902, nominated the following municipal officials for the ensuing year: Chas. E. Bayley, mayor; D. W. Stanley, clerk and treasurer; George E. Walker, assessor; P. W. Daniel, collector; E. C. Stuart, Capt. T. W. Gary, M. Parks Jordan and Chas. H. Walker, councilmen. Parks Jordan resigned as councilman the following November, and C. R. Earnest, Jr., was appointed.

In June, 1902, a Retail Merchants' Protective Association was organized. H. P. Logan was president; J. R. Holbrook, vice-president; Lott Allen, secretary and treasurer; W. O. Pearce, assistant secretary.

An election on the question of issuing bonds for $15,000 to purchase the electric light plant, was held November 11, 1902, and resulted in a victory for the proposition, the vote being 76 for bonding and 13 against. The city bought the electric light plant in March, 1903.

The firm of Wilson & Bowers dissolved in 1902. It had been an active mercantile establishment for some years. Blucher Wilson established a men's furnishing store.

In 1902 Milton Wilson was voted the "noisiest boy" and "biggest dude" in Summerlin; and, Uncle Ben Bradley's pipe was 34 years old, and still going "strong."

The first Woman's Club of Bartow, and probably of the county, was the Smart Set Club, organized in January, 1903. Mrs. Dexter Summerlin was president.

Municipal officers elected in 1903 were C. E. Bayley, major; Dr. J. P. Statham, collector; George E. Walker, assessor; W. O. Stanley, clerk and treasurer; C. E. Earnest, Warren Tyler, U. A. Lightsey, E. W. Codington, E. C. Stuart, councilmen. E. C. Stuart was chairman of the Board.

Will Stanley went fishing in Lake Alfred, and, as he had to bait his hook very frequently, shoved a few minnows into his pocket. He caught a fish or two, and then, as it was necessary to bait his hook, he put his hand in his pocket and found there a four-pound trout, which had gone in after the minnows. "Them was the days" when fishin' was fishin'.

Bartow had one of her big Fourth of July celebrations in 1903, only it was held on the 17th. In the floral parade Miss Maybird Overbay won the prize for the best decorated bicycle.

Allie Angle denied the story that when he was buggy riding with a young lady, his fair companion fell out and he drove ten miles further before he missed her. He declared that the hind wheel might come off, the spring break, or the horse fall from between the shafts, without his knowledge—but lose the girl, never!

Carl Schulz, a German tailor, who lived in Bartow many years, died September 2, 1903. It was known that he had received some money from the Old Country some time before, and it was finally discovered, sewed up in a neat little package on the inside of the trousers he had been wearing. The amount was $805, which he had been carrying in this manner several months.

They were as insistent upon collecting water bills in those days as now. An election on the prohibition question was the talk of the town, when City Clerk Stanley hung up a sign in front of his office reading, "Water bills due today—how'll you have your hydrant, wet or dry?" Another month he dropped into verse with this plea, or ultimatum:

"Be you drunk or be you sober,
Pay your rent in October;
Whether at home or on the ranch,
Pay up Saturday, or go to the branch."

The first record of football we have in the county was when the game was introduced in the South Florida Military Academy in the fall of 1903. A game was played between Company A and Company B on Thanksgiving day.

In December, 1903, an attempt was made to assassinate Col. John Beatty from ambush, as he and his wife were driving to the mines. Col. Beatty was general manager of the Green Bay Phosphate Co., and it was thought robbery was the motive prompting the shooting. He was hurt only slightly, his wife more seriously. Circumstantial evidence pointed to a negro, who was arrested and placed in jail. A mob attempted to storm the jail at night, but the coolness and bravery of Sheriff J. D. Tillis and his deputy, Bert Childs, foiled their plan. The negro was spirited away to Tampa for safe-keeping, and was later tried, convicted and given a twenty-year prison sentence.

Miss Lula Johnson was sponsor of the Confederate Veterans' Reunion at St. Augustine in December, 1903. The Bartow Camp was sponsored by Miss Lula Wright, and Miss Billie Boyd was maid of honor.

In 1903 Lott Allen was a live city marshal, and went after the evil-doers properly; whist parties were the popular form of entertainment; "Push the hard roads!" was the slogan of the progressives of the county; and Spessard Holland headed the honor roll of the 7th grade at Summerlin, in October.

There was considerable sickness and some deaths in Bartow during the latter part of 1903 and the beginning of 1904. Investigation disclosed that pollution of the city water supply caused the trouble. An artesian well was put down as quickly as possible, and the usual healthfulness of the community was restored.

Hon. and Mrs. J. N. Hooker celebrated their silver wedding March 19, 1904, entertaining about 200 guests.

The Bartow Whist Club was organized in 1904. Mrs. T. L. Wilson was the treasurer.

Officials elected in 1904 were: M. A. Wilson, mayor; A. J. Angle, clerk and treasurer; Dr. J. P. Statham, assessor; J. N. Hooker, W. Z. Overbay, T. W. Gary, C. H. Walker and C. E. Reed, councilmen.

In 1904 J. R. Davis and B. F. Holland were cited as among the county's best and most successful farmers. The former had a crop of corn that would yield 50 bushels to the acre.

Cadets Walter E. Bunker, Milton D. Wilson, Cicero J. Buttram, and Charles W. Parrish constituted the graduating class of South Florida Military Institute in June, 1904.

A boiler explosion, at the Green Bay Phosphate Co.'s plant, August 25, 1904, killed Jack Johnson, night foreman, and three colored men.

The Oak City Guards attended the State Encampment at St. Augustine, and was one of the companies selected for the Florida Provisional Regiment, which took part in the army maneuvers at Manassas in 1904.

Albertus Vogt, said to be the man who first discovered phosphate in Florida, and once known as the "Duke of Dunnellon," was conducting the Hotel Phoenix in 1904.

In 1904, Rev. F. G. Railey was pastor of the Presbyterian church; new sidewalks were being laid on Main street; and on November 18, there occurred the death of William B. Varn, pioneer citizen and Confederate veteran.

After considerable delays, Bartow's artesian well was completed in January, 1905, giving a water supply of unquestionable purity.

In 1905, Bartow Methodists were planning for a new church building. On April 3 the good work was started by the raising of $5,000. The project was pushed by an organization known as the Ladies' Church Building Association, of which Mrs. B. F. Holland was president, and Mrs. C. E. Bayley was secretary. There were five circles in the association, the chairman of each being, respectively, Mesdames D. W. Stanley, C. E. Reed, T. L. Wilson, A. A. Brown and Lewis Hooker. The corner-stone was laid on January 12, 1906, the ceremonies being in charge of the Masonic Lodge. J. W. Bingham, presiding elder of the district, preached the sermon of the occasion. The building was completed in 1911, and was dedicated November 12 of that year. Bishop H. C. Morrison delivered the dedication sermon.

City officials nominated in May, 1905, were E. W. Codington, mayor; A. J. Angle, clerk and treasurer; G. E. Walker, assessor; Dr. J. P. Statham, collector; E. C. Stuart, Harry Wear, C. E. Reed and S. A. McBride, councilmen.

Hugh and Harry Wear shot and killed an alligator at the junction of Saddle Creek and Peace River, that measured 7 feet and 10 inches in length.

In 1905, a new ice factory, finished in April, was built by E. W. Codington; Bartow shipped over 100 cars of tomatoes; Prof. H. A. Ferrell was principal of Summerlin; J. R. Davis put out 75 acres in cabbage; A. H. Sloan took the State census and announced Bartow's population as 2,270.

The Buckman bill, passed by the Legislature of 1905, did away with the South Florida Military College as a State institution, and the school did not reopen after its closing in June of that year. The buildings and grounds were sold in March, 1906, to local parties.

Two negroes were lynched in July, 1906, while on their way from Fort Gardner to the county jail, in charge of the sheriff. A mob of some fifty men met the prisoners about a mile and a half from Bartow, and shot them to death. Their crime was the murder of Ed Gardner, manager of the turpentine still for which they worked.

Bartow had a $20,000 fire on the night of August 10, 1906. The property destroyed was the block west of the court house, including Sample & Ramp's real estate office, Pike's harness store, Jenkins' grocery; Schneiderman's grocery store and Lewellan & Co.'s dry goods store.

Col. John J. Swearingen, who had been practicing law for some years at Arcadia, returned to Bartow to make his home, in June, 1907.

In 1907, Bartow was bidding fair to be "famous as an automobile town." There were seven cars "dashing about the streets," and it was said, "truly Bartow is putting on metropolitan airs." Before the close of the year there were fifteen machines in the community, and Bartow was referred to as "the automobile city." The fifteen owners were: D. W. Summerlin, who had a Premier; E. L. Wirt, a Reo; H. W. Wear, a Reo; P. B. Johnston, a Reo; E. E. Skipper, a Cadillac; R. B. Lyle, a Reo; Dr. Crum, a Reo; Mrs. R. A. Dixon, a Reo; J. D. Crum, a Cadillac; E. A. Law, a Cadillac; Milton Wilson, an Olds; C. E. Reed, an Olds. The Ford

had not yet made its appearance, to nose all other makes off the road. All records for speed were broken when, in August, 1907, E. L. Wirt with J. W. Sample, R. F. Eures, and Douglas, made a trip to Frostproof, covering the 26 miles in one hour and thirty minutes. A fine record, truly, considering the roads at that time.

The Bartow State Bank was organized and opened for business August 12, 1907. J. N. Hooker was president; E. C. Stuart, vice-president; T. W. Gary, cashier. The capital stock was $50,000.

Bartow's postoffice was raised to the second class July 1, 1907.

Dr. J. P. Hilburn resigned the pastorate of the Methodist church in order to accept the presidency of Southern College, and Rev. S. W. Walker succeeded him in the pastorate until the latter part of the year, when Rev. W. A. Myers became the pastor.

C. C. Wilson died November 27, 1907, in San Francisco, whither he had gone in the hope of improving his health. He was a son of Judge J. T. Wilson, and was the county's first prosecuting attorney. He represented the Senatorial district in the Legislature, and was a member of the Constitutional Convention that framed the State Constitution.

In 1907, U. A. Lightsey was known as the "cattle king of Polk"; Chas. H. Walker and J. W. Sample were heading the movement for a State organization of fruit and vegetable growers; the Lanier Literary society was flourishing; the City Council ordered a census, which gave Bartow a population of 3,069; Prof. and Mrs. William Hood on December 26th, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary; and Lewis & Lightsey sold their livery business to P. G. Lockwood, after Mr. A. J. Lewis had managed the concern for fifteen years.

Several brick business houses, besides a number of residences, were going up in the spring of 1908.

In 1908 a clayed road between Lakeland and Bartow was completed and accepted; E. E. Skipper was appointed postmaster, December 21; Rev. W. T. Waller was installed as pastor of the Presbyterian church.

The court house clock at Bartow was installed and put in operation the week of March 20, 1909.

On April 20, 1909, Bartow voted a $50,000 bond issue for sewerage, by a 5 to 1 majority.

City officers elected in May, 1909, were: Mayor, W. W. Clark; marshal, B. C. Williams; assessor, G. O. Gresham; collector, S. S. Niblack; clerk and treasurer, B. J. Oeland; councilmen, J. N. Hooker, chairman, H. M. Wear, J. A. Fort, C. L. Wilson, A. J. Lewis, J. R. Wiggins, John Bishop.

The Bartow Commercial Club was organized in September, 1909. F. R. McConnell was president; T. W. Gary, vice-president; Erle L. Wirt, secretary and treasurer. These officers, with A. A. McLeod and A. J. Lewis, constituted the Board of Directors.

Free delivery of mails was inaugurated in Bartow on June 1, 1909; in September of the same year the Bartow postoffice was moved into the new Marquis building—quite an improvement over the old quarters, but the people were hoping to get a building of the Uncle Sam brand.

The Board of Trade had another reorganization in October, 1909. E. C. Stuart was made president; Chas. H. Walker, vice-president; J. A. Fort, W. B. Swearingen, A. A. McLeod, J. J. Swearingen and S. M. Wilson, directors. J. C. Thomson was made secretary.

In 1909, the *Courier-Informant* installed a linotype machine; in October, T. L. Marquis opened Bartow's first moving picture theater, "The Amusu"; Rev. C. F. Blackburn was pastor of the Methodist church; in November, Mayor W. W. Clark resigned his office on account of press of personal business, and J. N. Hooker succeeded him; and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod of the South, representing nine States, convened in Bartow, November 18-22.

There was a great "back to the farm" movement among the people of Bartow and vicinity in 1909 and 1910. Trucking on a large scale was carried on. Among the larger operators were J. R. Davis, S. P. James, E. C. Stuart, Fort & Tate, Lockwood & Lewis, J. A. Moore and W. J. J. Whidden.

A debate between Summerlin Institute and the Arcadia High School was held February 25, 1910. Wayne Thomas and Borden Wilson were Summerlin's representatives, and they won the debate.

City officials nominated in April, 1910, were: C. H. Walker, mayor; Ellis Gibson, collector; G. O. Denham, assessor; B. J. Oeland, clerk and treasurer; B. C. Williams, marshal. Councilmen—J. A. Fort, A. J. Lewis, G. V. Tillman, and H. M. Swinson. Mr. Swinson resigned in July, and T. G. Lockwood was chosen to fill the unexpired term.

Arrangements for the installation of a day current for Bartow's municipal electric plant, were made in April, 1910. Service was inaugurated August 7th.

Fire swept East Bartow, Sunday, April 17, 1910. A restaurant and fifteen negro houses were destroyed, together with the storage tanks and stables of the Standard Oil Co. A spectacular feature was the explosion of a 10,000-gallon gasoline tank.

Wayne Thomas, a Bartow boy, and a graduate of the *Courier-Informant* office, bought the *Plant City Courier* in April, 1910.

Summerlin graduates organized an alumni association in May, 1910. John J. Swearingen was president; Mrs. H. D. Mendenhall, vice-president; Mrs. J. C. Thomson, secretary; Erle Wirt, treasurer; Miss Bernice Lyle, historian.

"What shall we do with the cow?" was Bartow's burning question in 1910. In July, at an election on this question, the answer was given by a majority of citizens, who decided that Bossy should be given the freedom of the streets. The council, however, took the situation—not the cows—by the horns, and passed an ordinance ruling cattle from the streets.

The people of Bartow were overwhelmed with sorrow because of a most tragic occurrence on July 1, 1910. A number of residents of Bartow were enjoying a house party on Crooked Lake. Curtis Langford, T. L. Marquis, Miss Myrtie Lewis and Miss Ned Stanley were in a launch on the lake, about 9 o'clock in the evening. A lighted lantern was in the launch, and some gasoline had leaked into the bottom of the boat. Fire resulted, and instantly the boat became a mass of flames. Miss Lewis jumped into the water and Mr. Marquis followed in an effort

to save her. Curtis Langford threw a life preserver to the couple, but they were unable to reach it, and, fastening a life preserver on himself, he went to their rescue, but they sank when he was in a few feet of them. Mr. Langford then turned his attention to Miss Stanley, to whom he had given a life preserver, and who had also jumped from the launch. Assistance came quickly from those on shore, and Mr. Langford and Miss Stanley were saved. The bodies of Mr. Marquis and Miss Lewis were not recovered until after more than 36 hours of frantic effort. Few occurrences in the county ever caused more general sadness. T. L. Marquis was the son of Mrs. Ella Marquis.

The beginning was made toward the securing of a public building for Bartow in 1910, when an appropriation of $5,000 was made by Congress to secure a site. The bill for the public building was signed by the president in March, 1913, the appropriation being $50,000. Bids were advertised for in January, 1917, the appropriation having been increased to $60,000. The Richardson Construction Co., of Bainbridge, Ga., was awarded the contract.

There were a thousand acres in truck in the Bartow section in the season of 1910-11. Among the larger operators were J. R. Davis, S. P. James, E. C. Stuart, Lockwood & Lewis, C. M. Boland, Bartow Smith, A. B. McLean, Jasper Ferrell, Fort & Tate, J. R. Wiggins, E. C. Sooy, S. W. Caldwell, J. H. Dean.

In 1910, N. H. Williams was pastor of the Methodist church; on October 19th and 20th, the Twentieth Annual Reunion of the Florida U. D. C. was held at Bartow; and Rev. W. M. Plaxco, who had been pastor of the A. R. P. church for five years, left for South Carolina, and was succeeded by Rev. N. E. Smith.

For about fifteen years, the Library Association had maintained its activities under difficulties, occupying rented quarters, with frequent changes. In March, 1911, through the efforts of S. S. Green, a proposal was received from Mr. Carnegie's secretary, offering to donate $8,000 to erect a free library building in Bartow, provided the city would expend not less than $800 a year for maintenance. A suitable site was purchased and Logan & Townsend, of Lakeland, were given the contract for building the library in August, 1914. It was finished in December of the same year, and was ready for use on Christmas day. The library was formally opened March 16, 1915. Miss Eunice Coston was the first librarian.

Municipal officers elected in 1911 were: R. L. Earnest, mayor; B. J. Oeland, clerk and treasurer; G. O. Denham, assessor; Ellis Gibson, collector; J. H. Lancaster, A. A. McLeod, Leon Hebb, and C. L. Sensabough, councilmen.

In 1911, S. L. Caldwell slaughtered a hog, in February, that weighed 700 pounds; telephone wires were put underground in March; Bartow's first Chautauqua, in charge of Rev. Dr. Benjamin, of Milwaukee, was held the week beginning March 23; and Rev. John T. Walters was pastor of the Baptist church.

There was a $30,000 fire August 18, 1912. The stores of T. P. Carpenter & Co., hardware; G. W. Smith, dry goods; Joe B. Johnson's garage, and Camales Bros'. fruit store, were destroyed.

The Seaboard Air Line Railway entered Bartow in 1913, the first train arriving on March 9th. J. E. Windham was the first agent at Bartow. Meanwhile, in 1912, the Railroad Commission ordered a union railroad station to be built at

Bartow for the A. C. L. and S. A. L. railways. Work on the extension of the S. A. L. to Lake Wales, was begun in April, 1914.

W. W. Chase operated an automobile line between Bartow and Fort Meade in 1913. The fare was $1.00 each way, and round-trips were made morning and afternoon.

Municipal officers chosen in April, 1913, were: R. C. Hatton, mayor; B. J. Oeland, clerk; G. O. Denham, assessor; Ellis Gibson, collector; J. A. Garrard, J. T. Burrows and H. L. Finney, councilmen.

Misses Evelyn and Geneva Graddy, aged 15 and 17, respectively, were burned to death August 10, 1913, in a fire that destroyed the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Graddy, in Bartow. The fire occurred about 10:30 at night, and its cause was never ascertained, the house being enveloped in flames when the fire was discovered.

E. E. Skipper retired as postmaster August 1, 1913, and was succeeded by S. M. Wilson.

Spessard Holland was winner of a Rhodes scholarship in the University of Oxford, England, in December, 1913. On account of conditions incident to the coming on of the World War, Mr. Holland was not able to avail himself of the privilege of attending this famous institution.

In 1914, E. L. Mack was elected mayor; G. O. Denham, clerk and treasurer; L. W. Bates, assessor; Ellis Gibson, collector; and J. E. Childs, J. D. Clark, L. Hebb and L. Z. Tate, councilmen.

The new three-story building erected by E. C. Stuart, corner Central avenue and Summerlin street, was completed in June, 1914.

Roy Gallemore was feted by twenty of his young friends June 8, 1914, on the eve of his departure to enter the U. S. Naval Academy.

The Board of Trade had been reorganized in October, 1913, with T. W. Gary as president. Shortly thereafter, a full-time paid secretary was employed, the position being efficiently filled by Jas. E. Mears.

There was a big Fourth of July celebration at Bartow in 1914, and an attempt to give an exhibition of a flying machine on this occasion was probably the first introduction of aircraft into the county. The flight was not very successful, the machine not getting much more than ten feet above the ground.

An election was held on October 6, 1914, on the proposition of issuing bonds for $75,000 for further street improvements, the people to vote on the kind of paving preferred before contracts were let. The bonds carried by a vote of 116 to 73.

A site for a new city hall was purchased in September, 1914. Previously bonds for $17,500 to erect a building, had been voted. Plans of Mark & Sheftall, Jacksonville architects, were accepted in November. A contract was let to Howard & Wread, of Sarasota, in February, 1915. The building was completed in October of that year.

The Catholic church building was completed in the fall of 1914, and Mass was celebrated for the first time in the structure on November 1st.

William Hampton Johnson died January 25, 1915. He had been a citizen of Polk since 1861, residing in Bartow for thirty years prior to his death. During

this long period he held many public positions, and was one of the most prominent men in the county, as well as one of the most popular.

During the year of 1914 Bartow constructed $130,000 worth of new paving, spent $40,000 in enlarging the city-owned light and water plant; $25,000 for additional sewerage; $8,000 for a public library building; $5,000 for a motor driven fire-fighting apparatus, and at the end of the year was preparing to spend $125,000 more on street paving. The city council also bought the old jail building from the county in 1914.

Bartow's death rate in 1914 was reported as the lowest in Florida.

The foundation of a new gymnasium building for Summerlin, the gift to the city of Mr. Leon Hebb, in memory of his wife, was laid in April, 1915.

Shipments of truck to the value of $400,000 were made from the farms contiguous to Bartow during the season of 1915. One man sold vegetables during the month of June in that year, which brought him $19,312.71. A. T. Mann had a fifty-acre field of corn that summer, the stalks of which would average nine feet, many of them having two, and some three, ears to the stalk.

Municipal officers installed June 1st, 1915: Chester Wiggins, mayor; W. S. Wev, clerk and treasurer; Ellis Gibson, collector; Borden Wilson, assessor; Leon Hebb, R. M. Oglesby, W. J. J. Whidden, J. E. Childs, Dr. J. A. Garrard and L. Z. Tate, councilmen.

The Polk County National Bank absorbed the Citizens Bank in July, 1915.

After two and a half years of faithful service, J. E. Mears resigned as secretary of the Bartow Board of Trade, in April, 1916. He was succeeded by W. F. George. J. Forrest Caldwell was elected president of the Board of Trade in November.

Roy Gallemore, midshipman at the U. S. Naval Academy, won the medal for fencing, in a tournament at the Hotel Astor Belvedere, New York, in April, 1916.

Bartow voted a bond issue for $20,000 for school purposes June 13, 1916. $15,000 was for an addition to Summerlin, and $5,000 for equipment, etc. R. E. Lee, of Fort Meade, was given the contract.

John C. Blount died at Bartow December 30, 1916. He was one of the first settlers of Polk, coming to the county when a child of three years. He served as county treasurer for eight years, and was otherwise prominent. He died at the age of 68.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Blount celebrated their golden wedding in February, 1916; and, in August, the Postal Telegraph Co. established an office in the city.

Misses Annie Franklin and Bernice Jones, and Mrs. J. E. Wagner, of Bartow; Miss Janie B. Currie, of Winter Haven; Miss Myra Curtis, Lake Wales, and Miss Mildred Morse, Lakeland, formed a party making a trip to Washington in March, 1917, as guests of the *Courier-Informant*. They were winners of a contest conducted by that paper.

Prof. Wm. Hood died February 25, 1917, in his 85th year. He had long been one of Bartow's best-loved citizens, and was principal of Summerlin Institute for several years.

A new bank was organized at Bartow in April, 1917. J. J. Boynton was president; R. B. Huffaker, first vice-president; Irving Trask, cashier. It opened for business June 6, under the name of the Citrus Exchange Bank. The institution was consolidated with the State Bank of Bartow in December.

T. M. Lybass, a resident of Polk for 35 years, died June 10, 1917.

Bartow's officials chosen in the spring of 1918 were: Mayor, Chester Wiggins; clerk and treasurer, George Seymour, Jr.; collector, Ellis Gibson; assessor, L. C. Olive; councilmen—G. O. Denham, E. L. Mack, J. E. Childs, and J. D. Clark.

Spessard Holland returned from service in the World War, a captain, in July, 1919, and assumed the duties of the office of Prosecuting Attorney, to which he had recently been appointed.

Gen. E. M. Law died October 31, 1920. All business in Bartow was suspended for the funeral, and the banks closed for the day. He was given a military funeral, veterans of the War Between the States and of the Spanish-American War, and the American Legion men, participating in the exercises. General Law was born in Darlington, S. C., in 1836.

E. E. Skipper, long a prominent citizen, was found dead at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. O. Douglas, at Sebring on November 2, 1920. Death was due to an attack of heart trouble.

Armistice day was celebrated November 11, 1920, an estimated crowd of 13,000 being in town. The Lakeland Band headed the big parade, which formed despite a rain. Hon. Park Trammell and Hon. H. J. Drane were speakers of the day, E. L. Mack presiding. About 5,500 persons were served a free dinner at the noon hour.

The body of Knowles Gittings Oglesby, Bartow war hero, who was killed in France August 22, 1918, while administering first-aid to the wounded, reached Bartow April 7, 1921, and funeral services over the remains were held the following day. He was 29 years of age at the time of his death. "One of the finest men sacrificed in the war," was the expression used in commenting on his death. The Bartow Post of the American Legion was named Knowles Oglesby Post in his honor.

City officers elected May, 1921, were: Mayor, Harry Taylor; clerk, Clyde Olive; assessor, E. B. Hatton; collector, Ellis Gibson; councilmen, J. A. Garrard, T. T. Hatton and V. G. Kelley.

Milton Skipper was appointed postmaster in June, 1921, to fill out the six months' unexpired term of S. M. Wilson, resigned. In January, 1922, he was appointed for a full four-year term.

On August 30, 1921, an election was held to select a Charter Board to frame Bartow's charter for commissioner-city manager form of government. Those elected were J. E. Childs, R. B. Huffaker, Leon Hebb, C. E. Earnest, and Parks Read. Forty-five candidates offered. In December, 1921, an election was held and the city-manager form of government won by a majority of 19. On January 24, 1922, U. A. Lightsey, R. B. Huffaker and Leon Hebb were elected city commissioners; Chester Wiggins was appointed city attorney, and E. S. Jackson city clerk and auditor. On February 28th, Anton Schneider was appointed city man-

ager; J. L. Albritton, municipal judge; Young Dial, chief of police; D. E. Bivens, superintendent of Public Utilities. R. B. Huffaker was chosen mayor, by agreement of the three commissioners.

Installation of a White Way was begun November 29, 1921. There were 70 posts in the system. The lights were turned on the night of January 14, 1922, in celebration of which a big street dance was held.

On February 5, 1922, the automatic telephone system was put in operation in Bartow. There were 545 phones in use at the time.

On March 3, 1922, Dr. McIver Law, son of the late E. M. Law, was killed at Arcadia, through contact with a wire carrying 2300 volts of electricity. He was making a fluoroscope picture of a child's arm, and in adjusting the machine in a darkened room the tragedy occurred.

On April 20, 1922, the Bartow Kiwanis Club received its charter, at a banquet at Hotel Oaks, and Kiwanis was thus formally launched on its active career in Bartow.

In the Spring of 1923 Bartow residents went into the tomato industry on a large scale, and in May shipped fifty carloads, which brought approximately $60,000.

May 4, 1923, City Manager J. W. Greer, who had succeeded Anton Schneider, resigned, and C. V. Turner was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Schneider had resigned to accept the city managership at Lakeland.

Georgia Day was celebrated at Kissingen Springs June 14, 1923. L. A. Morgan was president of the Georgia club, and over 1,000 representatives of that State were in attendance. Judge W. M. Gober welcomed the Georgians, and Col. W. A. Brady made a stirring address. A fine dinner was enjoyed.

In July, 1923, J. L. Albritton resigned as municipal judge, and O. Edgar Williams was appointed to the office.

Workmen broke ground for a new theater building in Bartow on July 16, 1923.

On July 17, 1923, Bartow voted $270,000 for new streets, sewerage improvement, extension of the water system, drainage of McKinney branch, and a municipal auditorium. The bond issue carried by a 3 to 1 majority.

On the afternoon and night of July 28th, 1923, the Chamber of Commerce staged its most successful Community Day celebration, 2,000 persons gathering to dedicate the City Hall lawn to public uses. John W. Martin, then mayor of Jacksonville, was the principal speaker, and there were addresses by President G. O. Denham, of the Chamber of Commerce, Mayor R. B. Huffaker, and Band Director F. E. Storm.

Mrs. Harold Wilson, prominent young society matron, and Miss Dereene Floyd, were killed in an automobile accident nine miles east of Tampa, August 23, 1923, when their car skidded on the wet paving. Miss Ardelle Hill, Mrs. W. F. Hill and young daughter, Janette, who were also occupants of the car, escaped with bruises.

Mrs. Bertha M. Knight became postmistress of Bartow August 20, 1923, succeeding M. E. Skipper.

On September 6, 1923, the City Commissioners bought the Hackl subdivision property for the purpose of creating a municipal park. The purchase price was $12,000.

In September, 1923, Mrs. L. B. Epperson rounded out her 30th year in the millinery business in Bartow.

F. H. Heard, a resident of Bartow since 1882, died October 18, 1923.

George H. Clements was secured as secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in June, 1922, and he has ably served the city and the organization since that time.

Jasper Summerlin was awarded prizes offered by the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce on Old Settlers Day for being the youngest old settler, and also for being the oldest settler owning the most land in Polk.

The first "Georgia Day" was observed July 13, 1922, at Kissingen Springs, 1,200 Georgians being in attendance. L. A. Morgan was chairman of the day. Officers of the Georgia Club elected were L. A. Morgan, president; W. S. Myrick, vice-president; George Brantley, secretary; J. E. Johnson, treasurer. There have been other observances of the day in succeeding years.

Benjamin F. Blount, pioneer resident of Bartow since 1851, died October 30, 1922, aged 77 years. He had been for many years a leader in the life of the county.

J. W. Grier, formerly city manager of Tallahassee, succeeded Anton Schneider, resigned, as city manager and superintendent of public utilities, Mr. Schneider leaving to accept the position of city manager of Lakeland.

Leon Hebb was elected City Commissioner December 5, 1922, for a three-year term.

Judge W. S. Preston, who had served two terms as County Judge, and otherwise had been prominent in county affairs, died December 15, 1922.

In 1924 the Baptists were planning a new church building. The old building, which had served since 1900, was moved and a splendid new edifice erected on the site.

Mrs. Bertha M. Knight was appointed postmaster in January, 1924. She had been acting postmaster for several months, succeeding Milton Skipper.

The Ernada theater, owned by Hugh Wear, was opened February 1, 1924.

The Bartow Woman's Club purchased the historic home of Gen. E. M. Law in 1924, as a permanent home for the organization. A housewarming was held October 30.

McKinney branch was drained, at a cost of about $25,000, in 1924.

In May, 1924, Leonard O. Boynton was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Jerry L. Wirt, a resident of Bartow for over forty years, died July 8, 1924. On July 7, another pioneer business man, George W. Smith, who came to the village of Bartow in 1880, passed away.

A City Hospital was planned in 1924. A fine building was erected as a result. It was opened March 1, 1928.

James G. Gallemore, for thirteen years editor of the *Bartow Record,* died very suddenly July 25, 1924. He was an able editor, a successful publisher, a splendid citizen, a kindly, gentle, noble man. Few men in the county were ever more generally loved and respected.

Thos. J. Hamm, former county treasurer, and a resident of Bartow 32 years, died November 28, 1924.

The corner-stone of the new municipal auditorium was laid October 2, 1924. Congressman H. J. Drane was the principal speaker.

A Rotary Club was organized in Bartow October 29, 1924. Previously there had been a "Wednesday Club", culminating in a full-fledged Rotary Club. Institution of the club was by Chas. H. Williams, secretary of the Lakeland Rotary Club, who directed the ceremonies. The first officers were Leonard O. Boynton, president; W. F. Eger, vice-president; J. Forrest Caldwell, secretary-treasurer; Cliff Harper, sergeant-at-arms. The formal ceremonies of installation took place November 6, when a large delegation of Lakeland Rotarians were in charge of the initiatory exercises.

During the years 1925 and 1926 building operations in Bartow approximated $1,000,000 for each year. Public improvements of all kinds kept pace with the building program, the result being a city supplied with everything requisite for the conveniences and comforts of modern life. Electricity, gas and water are available in ample supply and at reasonable rates. Well paved streets, an adequate sewerage system, unexcelled schools, and fine church buildings, representative of nearly all denominations, present a contrast to the struggling little town with which this narrative commences, without public improvements of any kind, not even a church building, and only one small and primitive school. Being essentially an agricultural community, Bartow's prosperity has the substantial basis of a rich back country, which yields tremendous quantities for the northern markets. Moreover, there are in the city, or in its tributary territory, numerous manufacturing plants, lumber mills, the mammoth phosphate industry, a cigar factory, canning factory, etc., which provide substantial payrolls. This History being in no sense a "booster" publication, these facts are here set down merely to indicate, by a glance at present conditions, the contrast between the city of today and the somnolent village of only about forty years ago, showing the remarkable progress that has been made in that comparatively short time.

Bartow Newspapers.

The first newspaper published in Polk County was the *Bartow Informant,* and the first issue of that paper was dated June 9, 1881. It was established by D. W. B. Boully, who came from Blountsville, Alabama, where he seems to have been engaged in trying to make a newspaper "go", apparently with such unsatisfactory results that he decided he could better himself by setting up his lodge in the wilderness, and inciting the wilderness to blossom. Undoubtedly, he had the spirit of the hardy pioneer, coupled with superabundant optimism, for at that time Bartow had but a little over 100 inhabitants, with but three institutions that could be called business houses—two general stores and one drug store. Of these only one—David L. Hughes—had an advertisement in the first issue, and he was a consistent and liberal advertiser thereafter.

However, Editor Boully had some advertisements in his paper. He brought them with him, ready set in type, from his old home in Blountsville, Alabama.

Back at that place there were people who had made him advance payments, both for subscription and advertising. These contracts he carried out with his new paper. Consequently, people in Bartow for many issues, were urged through the advertising columns of the *Informant,* to take advantage of the bargains offered by firms in Blountsville. Meantime, in the news columns, Blountsville people read all about Bartow happenings. Editor Boully was a man of principle, and having been paid for advertising and subscriptions, he punctiliously gave the service.

The *Informant* was a four-page paper, six columns to the page, and it was all printed at home. Editor Boully was proud of this fact, having the prejudice of the true journalist of that time against "patent insides." He remarks in his first issue that he thought it "better to get out a four-page paper in this way than to gull our readers with a sheet of 8 pages, 6 of which are printed abroad." The subscription price was $1.50 per year.

The paper was clean and well printed, and was remarkably free from typographical errors. However, it was necessary to miss the second issue, because the "frisket and tympan" of his press were not the right size, and he was compelled to wait until the Cincinnati Type Foundry could send him a new press. Later, Polk County was to see presses that had to be ordered months in advance of delivery, and that were shipped as carload lots—but not the simple affair which Mr. Boully operated. He engineered the whole machinery with only the assistance of a "devil." Sometimes, perhaps, he thought that, instead of "a devil" it was "the devil" who was mixing in his affairs, for issues were missed occasionally, and he frequently mentioned his troubles, though always in a rather cheerful vein. Once, he notes that "chills and fever laid their icy and burning hands alternately upon the editor." Occasionally he explains some shortcomings of the paper by the fact that he had been "deprived of our devil." In a very short time after reaching Bartow he had acquired a lot—they probably were not hard to acquire in those days—and was putting up a building to house his business and his family. During this period his troubles multiplied, for he laments his experience in "trying to put up a new building with next to no money", and expresses the hope that he will never have to pass through such an ordeal again. Once, while engaged in this task, he hurt "our leg", and that week's paper was only one page, *i. e.,* a single sheet printed on one side only. The following week he reports "our leg" improving, and hopes to have a full sheet next week.

Yet these annoyances were offset, perhaps, by compensations. Frequently there were acknowledgments of donations, such as iced cake and lemonade and other nice things, showing that the people of that day were not unappreciative of the editor. In referring to a wedding he usually acknowledged receipt of "the printer's fee", which it is believed was a portion of the wedding feast, or at least some of the bridal cake. For his first Christmas in Florida he received as a gift from Jerry Poppell a 14-pound watermelon. On the community Christmas tree, however, some wag hung as a present for the editor a hornet's nest—not an incongruous gift, for the editor didn't hesitate to stir up a hornet's nest when he deemed it expedient.

Considering its limited field, the *Informant* was a wonderfully good local paper. The news of the world seeped into this then isolated section very slowly, and the paper, of course, could handle little of it. The issue of September 22, 1882, was printed with black column rules, because of the death of President Garfield.

As soon as the editor had gotten established, his family came down from Alabama, making the journey by wagon, as was customary at the time. Five weeks and two and one-half days was the time required for the trip. "Our family having arrived", announced the editor, "we are now ready to receive chickens, eggs, butter, potatoes, corn, fish—in fact, anything that can be put to use in a family, in pay for subscription."

About six months after the paper was started, in January, 1882, Mr. Boully evidently found his duties too many and varied for he turned over the editorial department to Judge G. A. Hanson, retaining the business management. Judge Hanson showed considerable ability as an editor, though not confining his labors entirely to editorial work, as we judge from this paragraph: "Our editor gives all his spare time to the plow, and when the devil seeks for copy he has to put on rubber boots and take to the sandspurs to find it." The editorial articles dealt largely with national politics, and there was considerable pointing with pride and viewing with alarm, the Republican administration and the tariff receiving some doughty blows. A high moral tone was maintained.

An agricultural department was added which was in charge of the "Ag. Ed." This, the paper explained, meant "Agricultural Editor", and not "Aggravated Editor", though it was admitted the editor was often aggravated.

Human nature was much the same then as now. Before the paper had completed its first year, and notwithstanding Bartow had only about 125 inhabitants, there was talk of another paper. The rather outspoken policy of the paper and its tendency to print news which those concerned would rather have suppressed, may have given birth to the idea of an opposition paper. Such paragraphs as these might cause such talk in a very small community: "Our callaboose had one customer this week—Mr. V——, who got off for about $14.00." "Our corporation has had a lively week. The following cases were disposed of: Peter C. H——, drunk and disorderly, $5.00 and costs; Thos. C. S—— and Thos. K——, same offense, each fined $8.00 and costs. At any rate, in April, 1883, one F. C. Hunt was soliciting stock for a newspaper, $1,000 being the amount sought to be raised. The "Hunt" for the $1,000, however, was unsuccessful.

Much space was consumed in a controversy running through several weeks, for and against dancing. The editor was finally compelled to reject further communications on the subject. Then, when Mrs. Mann was about to open up a millinery store, the building before being occupied was "dedicated" by a social dance. A brief account was contributed to the paper, the writer stating the dance was attended by "the best of our young people." This bade fair to open the floodgates of controversy again, some one writing under a nom-de-plume, taking exception to this description of those who participated in the dance, and characterizing the affair as the "dedication of Sister Mann's new store to the diabolical service of

undeconpopulated, scholastical shindigging." This brought forth a reply, signed by Samuel H. Tidner, W. McAulay, H. W. Snell, M. Courtney and A. T. Mann, on behalf of the dancers, in which they stated the objecting contributor was "too well known as a good-for-nothing, worthless character, who neither commands the respect or esteem of the respectable citizens of Polk County to deserve even a passing notice in the columns of the press." The editor declared the controversy closed at this point, but the incident illustrates how large small matters loom in small communities.

The first delinquent tax list, printed in the summer of 1881, comprised twelve descriptions, making 33 single-column lines, which, presuming the legal rate to be the same as at present, must have netted the publisher as much as $5.00. The 1883 list, published in March, 1884, occupied nearly a page, and the publisher's revenue must have been over $100.00. Perhaps it was on the strength of this greatly enlarged public business that the next issue of the paper contained an announcement that a contract had been made for a new press, capable of printing an 8-column paper, and of doing all kinds of job printing. A little later an advertisement offered the old press and all the other material theretofore used in printing the *Informant* for $150.

In June, 1884, the *Informant* was enlarged to seven columns to the page. Shortly thereafter G. M. Holder and Mr. Sessions became associated with Judge Hanson in the publication, Boully retiring.

Bartow's second newspaper, the *Bartow Express,* appeared in 1885, but after a few months was bought by F. F. Crawford, and removed to Fort Meade.

In September, 1886, B. B. Tatum bought an interest in the *Informant,* he and G. M. Holder becoming the owners, and the paper was enlarged to a 9-column folio. After a few months the business was sold to E. W. Codington, and Messrs. Tatum and Holder established the *Advance-Courier* in opposition to the *Informant.*

No important matter was overlooked by the Argus-eyed reporter of the *Advance-Courier.* Witness this item: "The proprietors of the Georgia House have employed an extra cook."

In July, 1887, the editors of the *Advance-Courier* seemed to be experiencing the joys of the newspaper profession, as we note this paragraph: "We hope all the gentlemen who want to whip the editor will do as well as one did last week, make his call when we are out, and change his mind before he sees us. 'Tis a fortunate thing to be in the right place at the right time."

Newspapers were not bound by any too rigid ethical rules in these times. The *Bartow Informant* was awarded the county printing in 1888, being the lowest bidder. It agreed to print the official county advertisements for one-half cent a line, while the *Advance-Courier's* bid was 2½ cents a line. (The legal rate averages about 5 cents a line.)

In October, 1887, B. B. Tatum purchased the interest of his partner, G. M. Holder, in the *Advance-Courier,* and became sole owner and editor.

That one could not believe all one heard was indicated in this paragraph of the *Advance-Courier:* "Mr. P. M. Stanley says he called and paid his bill—but he never."

The *Advance-Courier* was enterprising beyond its time. Whenever there were happenings of sufficient interest to justify them, extras were issued. Miss E. Nellie Beck was local and society editor, and she was a good one.

In January, 1888, E. D. Barker, who had been associated with the *Informant,* severed the connection. The paper was owned by E. W. Codington. In July of the same year it was sold by Mr. Codington to J. H. Tatum, a brother of the *Advance-Courier's* editor. Shortly thereafter the *Advance-Courier* and the *Informant* were consolidated under the name of the *Courier-Informant.* In November, 1888, the paper was bought by James Harden and G. A. K. Stephens, the latter becoming the editor, and he remained in charge until May, 1894.

W. F. Stovall established the *Polk County News* in 1890, and was editor and publisher of that paper until 1892, when, deciding to seek a better field, he moved his plant to Tampa and established the *Tampa Tribune.*

In May, 1893, the *Courier-Informant* was sued for $25,000, action for libel having been brought by G. A. Hanson, an early editor of the *Informant.* A similar suit was filed against the *Progress,* Bartow's other paper. The basis of these suits appears to have been that the papers demanded that Judge Hanson make a report of the finances of Summerlin Institute, as treasurer of that institution, charging that he had made no such report for eight years, although he had been requested to do so. The papers treated the suit as a joke, and Judge Hanson finally made his report, and it was published. There is no record that he secured the $25,000 from either newspaper.

Meanwhile, the *Progress* had been established at Bartow under the management of A. E. Seddon. It was purchased by E. B. Barker and J. D. Garrett in the summer of 1893.

Both Bartow papers agreed that if whiskey must be sold in the county, it would be better if the sale were placed under the supervision of the law. They opined that there would not be one-tenth as many persons engaged in the liquor traffic under proper supervision as there were then operating blind tigers. Of course, this drew the fire of the ardent prohibitionists. The controversy waxed "dure et forte," Elder Nash (and many others) for the prohibitionists, and Editor Stephens, of the *Courier-Informant,* doughtily defending his position. He chronicled the loss of one subscriber, but a committee called on him with 100 pennies—no one person having been allowed to contribute more than a single penny—donated to replenish the *C.-I.'s* treasury after the loss of the ex-subscriber's financial support.

The *Courier-Informant* was accorded a circulation of 1,750 in 1893, a very creditable list for its field.

The fish liar was abroad in the land these days, as he always has been and ever will be. A correspondent of the *C.-I.,* from Bone Valley, relates that four silver quarters were found in a fish caught near there. This was in the days of free silver agitation, and the business depression accompanying it, and it was suggested that perhaps the swallowing of silver by fish was one cause of the financial stringency.

There were journalistic differences in these times as well as later. Editor Stephens, of the *C.-I.,* thought that Editor Seddon, of the *Progress,* was cribbing his local items, so he slyly set a trap by printing this paragraph: "Mr. W. A. Bayman, a wealthy citizen of Missouri, is looking around Bartow with a view of locating." "Mr. Bayman" was a purely mythical character, and there was no foundation whatever for the paragraph; nevertheless, the item was copied with considerable elaboration in the *Progress.* And Editor Stephens chortled with glee!

People had more time, and perhaps more inclination, to write for the papers in these earlier days. The most casual comment would precipitate a controversy, which would run on like the brook. But a pleasanter phase was the interest taken by many correspondents in sending in the happenings of their various communities. Irving Keck, who reported from Bowling Green and South Polk, was an unfailing and liberal provider of copy, and interesting copy, at that, though editors of today would have preferred that Mr. Keck furnish more news and less of his views. J. I. Wilson, for years, rarely missed having a budget of Haines City news in the Bartow papers. Such community correspondents are a blessing and a comfort to the editor—but their tribe seems to have decreased.

Mrs. Beulah R. Stephens, a very talented lady, became associate editor of the *Courier-Informant* in December, 1893. She was the editor's wife.

In May, 1894, the Polk County Printing Company was organized to publish the *Courier-Informant* and G. A. K. Stephens retired from the editorship. The new company had the following officers: E. W. Codington, president; F. W. Inman, vice-president; B. B. Tatum, secretary and treasurer. A number of other prominent citizens subscribed to the capital stock. B. B. Tatum was the managing editor.

The Sheriff seemed to have caught up with the *Progress* about this time, and its plant was sold at sheriff's sale in July, 1894, A. E. Seddon purchasing the outfit and resuming publication of the paper, which was thereafter called *The News.* It seems to have advocated Populistic ideas, which at that time were quite prevalent. L. W. Crompton was city editor.

Bro. Seddon, who was a preacher as well as an editor, printed an article in his paper criticising Sheriff Hiram Ballard because of the condition of the county jail. The Sheriff and the editor met on the street, and had a slight mix-up, but no one seems to have been seriously hurt. For a minister and editor, Mr. Seddon seemed to have had a good many troubles, for another personal encounter is noted in August, 1895, this time with T. L. Marquis, who struck the editor a blow on the head with a cane. These troubles of *The News* evidently were not growing pains, for the paper ceased publication after a brief life.

In December, 1895, the *Courier-Informant* installed a 2 h. p. gas engine—a big progressive step in the operation of a country newspaper at that time. The *C.-I.* was the only paper in Bartow at this period.

In October, 1896, the Messrs. Henry purchased the outfit of the defunct *South Florida News,* preparatory to establishing a new paper. R. J. Morgan, of St. Petersburg, was contemplating a similar venture. These parties became associated in the publication of a newspaper called the *Polk County Advance.* The

first issue appeared November 21, 1896, Mr. Morgan being publisher and A. C. Henry local editor.

The papers were handing out good advice then, as is their custom. "Quit talking hard times and they will vanish," is an admonition just as timely now as it was then. "Florida is passing through a period of hard times, but the end is in sight," was an optimistic paragraph in 1897.

The *Lakeland Sun,* the *Bartow Courier-Informant* and the *Fort Meade Times* had a lively tilt for the county printing in 1897, but the *C.-I.* seemed to have the longest pole—or pull—and knocked the persimmon.

In August, 1897, the *Courier-Informant* broke ground for a building for its permanent home. The building was of brick, 25x80. The first paper was issued from the building December 1, 1897.

With the issue of December 25, 1897, the *Advance* gave up the ghost, being convinced after a year's trial that the Bartow field, with the strong competition of the *C.-I.,* was unproductive. R. J. Morgan decided to move the paper to St. Petersburg.

The first daily paper in the county was issued at Bartow by B. B. Tatum, who began publication of a daily edition of the *Courier-Informant* on April 23, 1898, in order to supply the demand for war news. The paper ran for nearly four months, or during the period of the Spanish-American War, being discontinued with the issue of August 20th. The first six issues consisted of four pages of three columns each, the columns being nine inches in length. On April 30 the size of the page was enlarged, there being four columns to the page, the columns being 12 inches in length. The paper sold for 5 cents per copy, or 25 cents a week, but later the price was reduced to 50 cents a month. There was a fair telegraph service, supplying the demand of the people for war news, interest in which, of course, was very keen. This was a great stroke of journalistic enterprise for the times.

E. W. Harden, who was a noted war correspondent during the Spanish-American War, received his first newspaper experience in the *Courier-Informant* office. Wayne Thomas, prominent in Florida Journalism, also graduated from the same print-shop.

A very creditable Woman's Edition of the *Courier-Informant* was issued in December, 1899. Mrs. W. L. Morris was editor-in-chief, and Mrs. E. W. Codington was managing editor.

B. B. Tatum had been deploring the removal to Miami of many families from the county, but in December, 1899, he himself succumbed to the lure of the "Magic City", and with the last issue of that year he printed his valedictory as editor of the *Courier-Informant.* He had purchased the *Metropolis,* at Miami, and shortly afterwards went to that city to make his home. Col. John B. Johnson, of Dade City, succeeded Mr. Tatum as editor. After a few months, however, Col. Johnson resigned to return to Dade City, the people of Pasco County desiring him to represent them in the Legislature.

Prof. Wm. Hood succeeded Capt. Johnson as editor of the *Courier-Informant* in May, 1900. In his salutatory he stated that he was relying on S. A. McBride,

who had been with the paper several years, to keep the publication up to the high standard that had been maintained. Mr. McBride was continued as business manager.

In the issue of February 20, 1901, a liquor advertisement, measuring about 6 inches down two columns, was printed in the *Courier-Informant*. It chanced in this way: There was a legal advertisement of the sale of the Disston properties, which occupied more than a page, and which was run in a number of papers. One of the papers printed a two-page sheet containing the advertisement, and sold it to the other papers in which the publication was ordered, thus saving the work of typesetting by each paper. The liquor advertisement was printed on this sheet, and when delivered for distribution as part of the *Courier-Informant,* it was too late to remedy the matter. However, every effort was made to destroy the offending advertisement by printing a solid block over it. Of course, this made the advertisement ten-fold more conspicuous, but it was also made plain that the paper disapproved of it.

In May, 1921, Miss E. Nellie Beck, who had some years before been local editor of the *Courier-Informant,* became the editor, Prof. Hood retiring. Miss Beck ably filled this position for a year, resigning in May, 1892. D. B. Sweat, formerly of Waycross, succeeded Miss Beck, he having bought an interest in the paper. Mr. Sweat was able and successful. In September, 1902, the *Courier-Informant* installed a new Cranston press, and the old country Campbell, that had served long and well, was hauled through the country to Plant City to grind out opinions and news at that place.

Some time in 1902 J. N. Hale began the publication of a paper in Bartow called *The Cracker.* It seems that T. A. Bivins had also transferred his field of labor from Mulberry where he had published *The Phosphate Era,* to Bartow, where he was conducting *The South Florida Democrat.* All of this evidently gave Bartow too much of a good thing, for in October, 1902, T. A. Bivins moved to Tampa, having sold his plant to the colored people, who used it in producing a denominational paper. The *Bartow Cracker,* under Mr. Hale's ownership, rocked along until March, 1904, when he sold it to a company composed of C. A. Boswell, J. A. Garrard, L. O. Feagin, M. O. Feagin, and Jordan Durrance, known as the Bartow Publishing Co., and the paper thereafter was called the *Bartow Record.* A Mr. Witherspoon was the editor for a short time, then Prof. Wm. Hood was in editorial charge until July, 1905. Prof. J. O. Christian tackled the job briefly, and he was followed by J. F. Hovey and G. H. Bell in rapid succession. In 1906 E. M. Canova, of St. Augustine, took charge, but the task was so strenuous that he suffered a nervous breakdown in the summer of 1907, and the editorial chair was again vacant. George G. Matthews took charge in November, 1907, and early in 1908 he and P. B. Bowie purchased the plant from the Bartow Publishing Co. About a year later S. S. Savage, of Ocala, became a partner of Mr. Matthews in the publication of *The Record.* He soon bought Mr. Matthews' interest, and was sole owner until August, 1911, when J. G. Gallemore arrived from Washington, Missouri, and purchased the paper. From that time,

under Mr. Gallemore's splendid management, *The Record* grew in popularity, influence and circulation.

In May, 1904, after two years in which the *Courier-Informant* progressed and flourished, D. B. Sweat decided to give up newspaper work for the ministry, and he severed his connection with the paper, to affiliate with the Florida Methodist Conference. He was succeeded by Edward Fitzgerald, who came to the paper as editor from Pensacola. S. A. McBride was continued as business manager. After a little over a year under this regime, Editor Fitzgerald and Manager McBride resigned, and they were succeeded in June, 1906, by Gen. E. M. Law as editor and P. A. Ruhl as business manager. Mr. Ruhl ably managed the paper until November, 1907, when he resigned to enter the newspaper field at Fort Myers, W. H. Bulloch succeeding him as manager of the *Courier-Informant,* which position he ably filled for nearly four years. In May, 1911, Mr. Bulloch resigned, his health requiring a higher latitude, and W. M. Grier, of Spartanburg, S. C., became the manager.

After ten years of splendid service, Gen. E. M. Law retired from the editorship of the *Courier-Informant* in May, 1916, for the purpose of devoting his time to the preparation of his memoirs. During all that period the paper was a great factor in upbuilding every worthy interest in Bartow and Polk County. Gen. Law proved his exceptional versatility by his distinguished career as a soldier, his splendid record as an educator, and, lastly, by fitting into the newspaper profession as one to the manor born.

W. M. Grier, who had been business manager of the *Courier-Informant* for some years, became editor when Gen. Law resigned. In October, 1916, Frank K. Anderson assumed the business management, Mr. Grier continuing as editor until March of the following year, when he retired, Mr. Anderson becoming editor and publisher. A tri-weekly was essayed, but in February, 1918, the weekly issue was resumed. October 31, 1919, the *Courier-Informant* and the *Bartow Record* were consolidated, and *The Record* became a semi-weekly paper. On Thanksgiving day, 1925, *The Record* became a daily, and has served its community splendidly under the direction of Roy T. Gallemore, who took up the management shortly after the death of his father, July 25, 1924. Evidencing the substantial character of the business, a handsome brick home was built for it by Mr. J. G. Gallemore in 1923, and was opened by the Polk County Press Association at its meeting in Bartow on September 16 of that year. Mr. Wallace Stevens has for several years been connected with the publication in the capacity of associate editor.

Chapter III.

FORT MEADE

Fort Meade is probably the oldest settlement in the county, though some claim that there was a settlement at or near Socrum whose beginnings were as early. During the Indian wars the value of the location as a military base was recognized and a fort was built and garrisoned. As a strategic point it was important, and its perfect drainage and general healthfulness were advantages appreciated by the military authorities.

The military station which later bore the name of Fort Meade, according to some evidence in hand, was originally known as Fort Clinch. It was established in December, 1849, and was abandoned in 1854. It was reoccupied during the disturbances that occurred between 1856 and 1858, being finally abandoned in September, 1857. It was named in honor of George Gordon Meade, Second Lieutenant, Topographical Engineers, later Major General, and commander of the Federal army at the battle of Gettysburg. How it was given this name is told in a letter which was written in 1896 to Hon. T. J. Minor, at that time mayor of the town of Fort Meade:

"Norwalk, Conn., Aug. 11, 1896.

"Mayor of Fort Meade:

"Dear Sir: I have often thought of writing you what I know about the location of your city.

"In 1851-2, I being on duty at Fort Chockonicola, on Pease Creek, about ten miles from Fort Meade, one day General Twigg took with him Lieut. Meade and myself, in connection with an escort of horsemen, to hunt for the site of old Fort Clinch, of which there was considerable ambiguity in the description of the location.

"The General left the search entirely in Meade's hands, and when a little before dusk Meade announced that he had found the correct place, the General, much overjoyed, said, 'Here shall be Fort Meade'.

"Lieut. Meade, I know, up to that time had thought that the General was prejudiced against him.

"Trusting that this communication will be of interest to you and the people of your beautiful city,

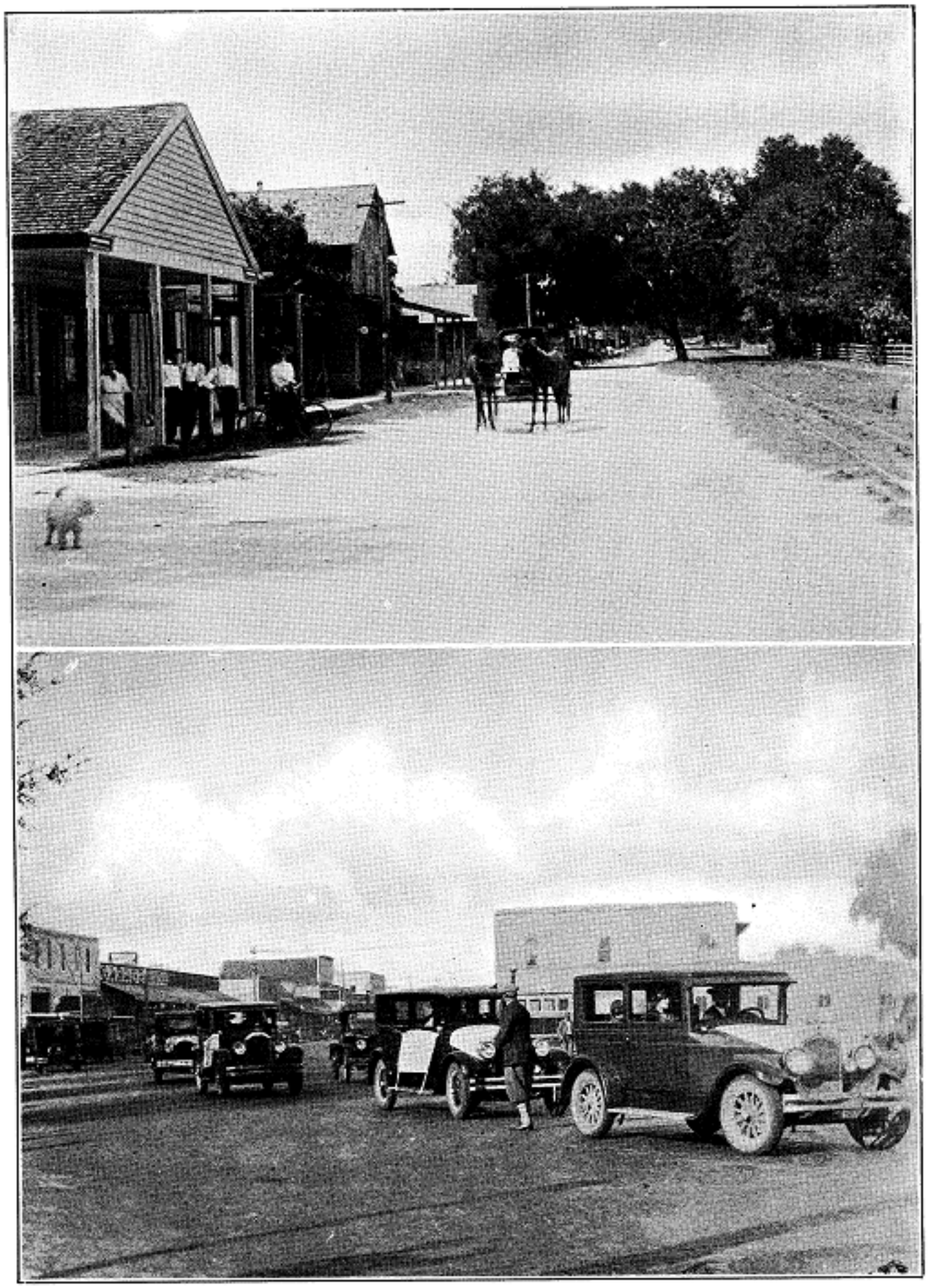
"I am, truly yours,

"Darius N. Couch,

"Ex-U. S. A. and Maj. Gen. U. S. Vols."

Capt. Sam Hope, who was a veteran of the Indian war, in an interview in 1905, gives the following account of a fight near Fort Meade:

"At that time (1856) the settlers in what is now Polk county had gathered in forts and block houses for protection from the Indians; but an old Indian fighter, named Willoughby Tillis, had refused to come into the fort at Fort Meade, preferring to take his chances on his place near town. On June 14, 1856, the old man was attacked by a small band of Indians, who finding his fire too deadly,



Upper—Street Scene in Fort Meade 40 Years Ago.
Lower—Fort Meade To-day.

finally withdrew to a neighboring fence corner. At this juncture Lieut. Carlton, who had heard the firing at the Fort, came up. He had with him four men—William Parker, Lott Whidden, John Henry Hollingsworth, and a man whose name I have forgotten. Disregarding Tillis' warning, the little party from the Fort closed in upon the Indians. In the melee, Carlton, Parker and Whidden were all killed, while Hollingsworth was severely wounded. The fifth man escaped without a scratch." Capt. Hope, in describing the details of this skirmish, said that before Carlton and his brave companions fell, they managed to lay violent hands upon one Indian brave, whose throat they cut from ear to ear. Such was life in Florida in the days of old. There is also a record of the killing by the Indians of George Howell and Robert Prine in a battle on June 6, 1856.

The old Fort and barracks were demolished about the year 1890, and an attractive residence and fine orange grove, constituting the home of L. A. Morgan, occupy the site of these early fortifications. Soon after the erection of the Fort settlers began making their homes near about, and the town of Fort Meade sprang into existence, and for many years was an important trading post for that section of the country.

It is probable that a few settlers located in the vicinity of the fort—possibly a soldier or two, who had been stationed there, came back and brought his family to the surroundings to which he had become familiar. This is all a matter of conjecture. There are no records bearing on these matters, and those who played a part in the drama of these early days have disappeared from the stage. The first settler of whom we can find any record was Capt. Lanier, who was on the ground in 1851.

The settlement was made in what was known as "The Deadening"—a tract of land about twenty miles square on the west side of Peace Creek. It may be stated that Peace Creek is a corruption of the original name "Pease Creek," which name was given it because of the wild peas which grew in great profusion along its course. No treaty of peace was ever made on or near that river, and the impression that it was ever named Peace Creek because of its being the scene of such a treaty, is erroneous. A newspaper, published in Tampa in 1858, refers to what is now Fort Meade as "Peas Creek", that being the name of the postoffice at that time. There was an advertisement of the store of R. R. Blount, and this apparently was the first store of the settlement. Polk county did not exist at that time. The lands which included the site of the settlement were called "The Deadening", from the fact that years before all the large timber in that area had died. Indians say that there was a very heavy hail at one time, and the stones were so large and fell with such force, that they bruised the trees, and worms got in the bruised places and killed the trees. This explanation is plausible, as the death of the trees was not likely to have been caused by fire, as fire does not kill pine trees when the woods are burned.

It cannot be said that in 1881, the curtain goes up on the scene of Fort Meade in its infant stage, but rather that we get a glimpse of the setting of that time. A sleepy village of perhaps 150 souls, two dry goods stores, one fancy goods store, and a drug store. The following year a church building was erected, and on

May 7, the Methodist church was dedicated, this being one of the first church buildings in the county. The structure cost $1,200. Rev. Pelot officiated, and Rev. Carson, of Mississippi, preached the dedication sermon. That the people were eager for the spiritual advantages of a church in the community is evidenced by the circumstance that a couple of days after the dedication a church festival was held, and although there was less than 200 population at that time, $635 was realized.

The Baptists had a church organization at this time, but no church building. There was a school with 40 pupils enrolled. In addition to the business enterprises mentioned, there was a tanyard, a saddlery and a shoe shop; a doctor, a dentist and two boarding houses. C. L. Mitchell was the physician; S. G. Hayman was the dentist. Some other leaders besides these two professional men were Capt. Lanier, J. N. Hooker, George W. Hendry, Major Phil Dzialynski, Capt. Lightsey, John Skipper, R. C. Langford and S. W. Carson. The latter was somewhat of an authority on citrus growing and agriculture at the time.

An important industry of that day in Florida was provided by the alligators, which were very numerous in the swamps and waterways, and this industry seemed to center in the Fort Meade section. In 1881 Phillip Dzialynski had the contract to supply 5,000 alligator hides to a leather firm in Paris. Some of the saurians captured would measure fifteen feet in length.

One industry that appeared to be under the ban was the liquor business. In 1881 there was no "liquor shop" in Fort Meade, and nearly every person owning land in or near the place, had signed an agreement never to sell or to rent any person a house, or land upon which to build one, who intended to deal in liquor.

Dr. Mitchell retired from the practice of medicine in 1882, and Dr. M. O. Arnold succeeded him as the community physician.

The Fort Meade postoffice was robbed in September, 1882, but there was little grief expressed, because the money stolen seems to have been some that was being sent off for liquor to start a barroom.

George W. Hendry, in 1883, advertised as a real estate agent, and stated that at that time he had been a resident of Polk for thirty years—in other words, since 1853.

Deer were plentiful in the vicinity of Fort Meade in 1883. J. D. Tillis killed one with a pistol on the outskirts of the village.

The urge of the effete was early felt in the community, for in April, 1883, we find the first barber shop established.

By the summer of 1883, the postoffice had been made a money order office, and there was a daily mail from Tampa.

That the people of Fort Meade always stood for fair play and justice to white and black, is evidenced by a circumstance occurring in April, 1884. Unknown persons fired into a house accupied by a Mr. Beard and his colored help, injuring one of the negro men. A public indignation meeting was held, and a reward of $500 was offered for the conviction of those guilty of the outrage. In 1885 there were persons in Fort Meade who had never seen a negro.

The railroad located its station nearly two miles from the town. To obviate the inconvenience thus caused, the citizens formed a corporation, and built a street railway connecting the town with the railroad. This street railway was in operation for several years and was quite a profitable enterprise.

Reif Bros. were located in Fort Meade in 1887.

Cecil H. Alleyne and Capt. E. A. Cordery were in the real estate business in Fort Meade in 1888. Many English settlers came to the Fort Meade section in 1888 and 1889. Capt. Alleyne, an Englishman, was largely instrumental in bringing about this influx of his countrymen. Mr. Ernest B. Simmons contributes the following concerning this phase of Fort Meade's history:

"Until the coming of the Englishmen, with their purses of money, the only money in circulation was usually obtained from the sale of beef cattle, principally to the Cuban market. The Englishmen, mostly younger sons of well-to-do families, who could not inherit any lands in England on account of English laws of primogeniture, took a great interest in sport, especially in racing. With their tight corduroy or broadcloth knickerbockers, and their flat jockey saddles with short stirrup straps, they made a gay sight as they trotted or galloped through Fort Meade. Their riding, bobbing up and down, most of the time entirely out of their saddles, was a sharp contrast to the Cracker cowboy riders who, at any gait, sat in their saddles as though they were a part of the horses they rode. The liverymen at Fort Meade made quite a success of helping these gay young scions of England in spending their money, by selling them racing ponies. At their race track east of Fort Meade a certain pony would outrun everything. Of course, some sporting Englishman would just have to have that pony to add to his stables. The price was invariably several times the market price of Florida ponies. The Cracker dealer would have the time of the winning pony, and before the next race would have obtained from somewhere in the backwoods another pony a little swifter than the former one, and he would not only again win the Englishman's money, but would sell him the new pony at another fancy price."

The Fort Meade Jockey Club held a race meeting on February 2, 1888. A special train was run from Sanford and intermediate points. This race meet was an annual event during the time the English people remained at Fort Meade, and was a very popular institution.

The town adopted a new code of ordinances in June, 1893, prepared or compiled by W. S. Akins.

The State Bank of Fort Meade was established about this time. Weymyss Jackson was cashier.

Fort Meade was paving Broad street in September, 1893; and in October of that year Henry Rockener was appointed postmaster.

In 1894 Fort Meade held a municipal election, which was a curiosity. Seventy votes were cast, but all but three were thrown out by the inspectors. The three votes elected T. J. Minor, mayor; T. B. Sherrill, marshal; F. B. Harless, clerk and treasurer; J. G. Carter, Weymyss Jackson, M. Reif and B. F. Perry, aldermen; J. E. Robson and R. C. Hodgson, school trustees. The votes were thrown out because in some instances the ballots were too wide, and the word "for" was improperly used before the name of each office.

Fort Meade was visited by a disastrous fire in 1894, the third in four years. At this time the store of Canter, Evans & Co., the drug store of J. M. Stanfield & Co., Wise Perry's pool room, and Lightsey & Lewis' meat market were all destroyed. The loss was about $10,000.

As late as 1894 wild turkeys were seen within the town limits, and two fine deer were killed within a mile of the postoffice.

Fort Meade had a football association in 1894, which issued a challenge to "any eleven gentlemen of Bartow, between the ages of 18 and 25, for a game on Christmas day."

In March, 1895, it was found that all the town records, tax books and dockets had been stolen. A reward of $100 was offered for information relative to the theft.

In 1895, according to the local chronicler of the time, the following were among the most active business institutions: "Mrs. J. C. Reif was carrying a large and varied stock, and was also proprietor of a well-managed livery stable; Mr. Hodgson reported boat-building on a boom; James T. Hancock, Jr., was hustling, while the well-known and well-established firm of Flood & O'Connor were increasing their large stock, and doing a good business. W. L. Stephens had all he could attend to; neither were there any idle moments in the State Bank of Fort Meade. Dr. Mitchell was always interviewing, or being interviewed, and had no idle moments on his hands. *The Pebble*, the local newspaper, was always rolling. M. M. Loadholtes & Co., W. A. Evans & Co., and Stanfield Bros. & Co. invariably opened up early and closed very late, having no time for anything but selling goods and taking in the cash."

About this time Capt. E. A. Cordery was promoting a large tobacco growers' association. A citizens' meeting was held to discuss the project, and over 700 acres of land were donated for its purposes. It was proposed to grow high-grade cigar tobacco. "The Cuban Tobacco Co., Ltd.," was incorporated with a capital stock of $150,000. Early in December, 1895, a large party of Cubans, direct from Havana, arrived to form a colony for producing the tobacco, and they were given a royal welcome, a big barbecue being arranged in honor of the newcomers. A hundred or more Cubans came in all. Ernest B. Simmons tells us that "when the Cubans came it was a sight to the natives to see the little dark-skinned workmen in the fields or on the street, each with a huge machete hung to him in lieu of a pocket-knife. These immense knives they used for all the purposes a Yankee jack-knife is used for, and for many things a pocket-knife is too light for. Spanish signs appeared upon the store fronts and one enterprising firm, Stansfield Bros., spoke Spanish. Huge tobacco barns were erected and carpenters were quite busy. The methods of the Cuban carpenters were new to the Americans, for they had strange tools and in using a rip-saw they cut from them, instead of towards them, as an American carpenter would. The home boys, who worked with them soon learned the Cuban names for their carpenter tools. When the Cubans left and building activities ceased altogether, and farming was curtailed, a period of financial depression hit Fort Meade which was undoubtedly the severest ever known to that place. Fortunately the phosphate boom soon succeeded it and Tiger Bay mine and Jane Jay were built. The new Fort Meade begins here."

There was a great deal of activity in the new industry, and many thought it would prove a way to quick wealth. For two or three seasons it seemed that crops and prices were good. Besides the operations of the company mentioned, many individuals, not only at Fort Meade, but in many other parts of the county, engaged in tobacco culture. W. A. Evans and A. Gardner had eighty acres of irrigated tobacco in cultivation in 1898. The business languished, however, for various reasons, and tobacco-growing was finally abandoned. The principal reason for the decline of the industry, according to Mr. Simmons, was because, after the conclusion of the Spanish-American war and the achievement of Cuban independence, the Cuban growers returned home, their Spanish tormentors having been driven out of Cuba. It is said they were crafty enough to mis-cure the tobacco left in the Fort Meade tobacco barns in order to put it out of competition with the Cuban-grown cigar tobacco. At least, this was common gossip at the time.

Philip Dzialyński, who lived at Fort Meade for many years, died in Jacksonville in 1896.

The following municipal officers were elected in April, 1896: Mayor, T. J. Minor; marshal and collector, J. J. Hooker; clerk, treasurer and assessor, M. J. O'Connor; councilmen, Weymyss Jackson, Max Reif and W. L. Stephens. School board, V. B. Webster, L. B. Flood and Wm. Lebo.

There was a small-pox scare in Fort Meade in 1897. A Cuban woman, recently from Havana—evidently one of the colony of tobacco workers—developed the disease and died. There were a few other cases, but no other deaths.

In April, 1898, a municipal election resulted as follows: William Thompson, mayor; F. F. Crawford, clerk and assessor; J. J. Hooker, marshal and collector; F. F. Harless, L. H. Johnson, and P. D. Buzzi, councilmen.

In 1899 Dr. C. L. Mitchell, who had been a resident of Fort Meade since 1872, removed to Bartow; and W. B. Gardner, who had gone prospecting to Cuba, returned, cured of Cuban fever, and convinced that there was no place like Fort Meade.

City officials elected in 1900 to serve the ensuing year, were: Max Reif, mayor; E. O. Flood, clerk and treasurer; Herman Gay, marshal and collector; M. M. Loadholtes, D. E. Ashton and J. O. Densford, councilmen. In 1901 T. J. Minor was elected mayor; P. E. Alfred, marshal and collector; E. O. Flood, clerk and assessor; W. L. Stephens and M. F. Damphier, councilmen.

In 1901, hogs were banished from the streets by municipal ordinance; J. W. Powell was appointed postmaster in July; and, in June, the Fort Meade Strawberry and Vegetable Union was organized. P. Cummings was president, and E. Franklin Childers, secretary of this organization.

In 1901 Fort Meade's street railway company paid a 16 per cent. dividend. In 1902 it paid a dividend of 12 per cent. Max Reif was president of the company; M. M. Loadholtes, vice-president; W. H. Francis, secretary; E. O. Flood, treasurer; J. G. Carter, general manager.

The Peninsular Telephone Company came into Fort Meade in November, 1903. The first message was sent to President Brorein on Saturday, October 10th. Miss Roxie Lebo presided over Fort Meade's first telephone exchange.

A Board of Trade was organized at Fort Meade in January, 1905. M. M. Loadholtes was president, T. E. Hayes was vice-president, and W. H. Barr, secretary and treasurer.

A new telephone system, fathered by Max Reif, was installed in 1907. It was put in operation in August of that year.

Alex Perry established an ice plant which began operation in July, 1907; in the same month and year, the Charleston mine, near the town, began producing phosphate.

A new Baptist church was built in 1907. Dr. O. B. Lewis donated the ground.

Members of the Church of God erected a tabernacle for holding annual camp meetings at Fort Meade, in 1907. Elder W. O. Williams was the moving spirit. They also built several houses to accommodate their ministers and visitors.

In 1907 Fort Meade was doing much building and improving; the *Fort Meade Observer* was launched by Dr. W. F. Zander, in August; and Rev. Fred Pixton was pastor of the Methodist church.

In May, 1908, a postoffice was established at West Fort Meade. There had been some contention between the citizens of the east end and those of the west end, as to which would have the postoffice, and the argument was settled by each end having one. L. D. Roberts was postmaster of West Fort Meade.

August 3, 1909, fire destroyed the buildings occupied by Moody's drug store, Auschewitz's jewelry shop, Welsh & Sapp's barber shop, and A. B. Jones' general merchandise store. A large portion of the stocks and furnishings were also destroyed. Loss about $10,000.

Fort Meade Lodge No. 11, Knights of Pythias, was organized in Fort Meade, August 24, 1909, with the following officers: A. B. Jones, past chancellor; J. J. Singleton, C. C.; Wm. Bowers, V. C.; L. F. Warren, prelate; Phil Langford, M. of A.; C. J. Wilson, K. & R. of S.; J. A. Newsome, M. of W.; Chas. Langford, M. of E.; W. E. Arthur, M. of Ex.; Dr. Williams, I. G.; W. H. Leviner, O. G.

The Fort Meade Citrus Growers' Association was formed in 1909, incorporators being W. A. Evans, S. A. Hart and D. F. Russell.

The town of Fort Meade was incorporated October 25, 1909. There were 121 qualified voters in the territory of the proposed municipality, and 91 of these were present at the incorporation meeting. The vote to incorporate was unanimous. Officers were elected as follows: Mayor, Dr. O. B. Lewis; clerk, George L. Broderick; marshal, Aaron Simmons; councilmen, M. H. Wilson, J. J. Singleton, Kline O. Varn, S. H. Brown, and P. J. Langford. Much enthusiasm and good feeling attended the event.

Monday, November 22, 1909, the extension of the Winston & Bone Valley branch of the A. C. L. Ry. from Tiger Bay to Fort Meade, was opened to Fort Meade, giving a double daily train service.

Old Fort Meade had for some time given place in a business way to West Fort Meade. The former, however, has continued to be the principal residence section.

Rev. J. L. Moon was pastor of the Methodist church in 1910, and Rev. E. Sanford was the Baptist pastor.

Fort Meade Lodge No. 67, I. O. O. F., was instituted August 24, 1910. The following were the officers: J. L. Lloyd, N. G.; J. J. Singleton, B. G.; L. F. Warren, secretary; J. M. Maddox, treasurer; L. F. Warren, A. C. Johns, E. B. Simmons, trustees.

Fort Meade's special census, taken by order of the City Council, September 1, 1911, showed a population of 1,923. The Federal census of 1900 showed 300; in 1910, 1,165.

A new brick school building was completed in July, 1912. The local school board, under whose regime it was built, was composed of J. M. Maddox, B. W. Gardner and J. M. Keen.

On May 11, 1913, fire destroyed the building and stock of W. S. Wilson and three other frame stores adjoining. Loss about $10,000.

The City Council of Fort Meade submitted a proposition to issue bonds for the following amounts and purposes in August, 1914: Municipal building, $7,000; brick paving, $25,000; extension of waterworks and sewerage, $35,000. In April, 1915, bonds for $58,000 for a municipally owned electric light plant were voted.

An unusual method of determining who should be postmaster was resorted to when on June 2, 1914, an election was held to give the people of Fort Meade an expression as to who should serve them in this capacity. S. Edwin Booth was the choice of the majority.

Mel Wilson was mayor in 1913, 1914 and 1915.

An exchange packing house was built in Fort Meade in 1915. Chas. H. Walker was at the head of the movement, W. A. Evans, Kline O. Varn, E. R. Childers and J. A. Acree represented the local people interested.

F. Bartow Swearingen was appointed postmaster in January, 1915.

In 1916, Main street was being paved with brick, and the First National Bank erected a handsome, two-story brick building.

The Fort Meade High School building was dedicated March 2, 1916. It was claimed to be the best school building in the county at the time.

E. H. Dudley, of Mulberry, purchased the ice plant in May, 1916. He operated similar plants at Mulberry and Bradley Junction.

The South Polk County Fair was held at Fort Meade January 29 to February 2, 1917, and was in all respects a creditable affair.

Max Reif, long a leading citizen of Fort Meade, and prominent in the politics of the State, died September 25, 1917.

City officers elected September 9, 1919, were M. A. Wilson, mayor; E. L. Wade, city clerk; W. D. Smith, J. M. Rivers, G. T. Hill, councilmen.

Capt. E. A. Cordery, prominent in the community's affairs since 1885, died December 7, 1920.

Fort Meade had a destructive fire in the business section on the night of February 2, 1921. The fire originated in Cohen's dry goods store, and destroyed Zanders' Sisters Quality Shop; Head's Haberdashery, Phillip Cohen's, Powell's Bicycle shop, Southern Hotel, Heath's Grocery, Mattox Hardware Store, and the Langford drug store. Only valiant work of the Bartow fire department prevented

the entire business section from being wiped out. A loss of $90,000 was sustained, with little insurance.

Funeral services over the remains of Rev. J. L. Moon, who died in France, February 22, 1919, were held in Fort Meade, July 21, 1921, the body having been sent home by the government at the request of the widow.

Fort Meade celebrated the turning on of the first unit of her White Way, November 15, 1924.

The commissioner-manager form of government was adopted by Fort Meade, April 22, 1925. The vote was 184 to 109.

Mr. A. L. Cleveland, editor of *The Fort Meade Leader,* furnishes the following excellent review of present conditions in Fort Meade:

"Conditions at present obtaining in Fort Meade are most encouraging. This has always been essentially an agricultural section. The soil is rich, a combination of light and heavy, and admirably adapted to the growing of various kinds of small fruits, citrus fruits, general and staple crops, trucking of all kinds, and of late years has become the hub of a vast acreage in watermelons.

"Fort Meade has never had booms in the same degree as neighboring towns have experienced. The community is made up principally of pioneer settlers, families who settled the country half a century ago, and who, with their children and children's children, keep right on living here. The community, therefore, suffered least of all, perhaps, of any town in the county. True, the town grew and expanded, but it was not exploited and real estate values did not go skyrocketing beyond control.

"Of recent years Fort Meade has had erected a beautiful and commodious primary school building, built almost in the center of a beautiful oak-studded four-acre plot, just across the street from the grammar, junior and senior high. Also the erection of a handsome $40,000 city hall; a vast grading and paving of streets; a modern white way; a sewer and waterworks extension, permitting modern sanitation to all parts of the city. During the past ten years steady progress has been going on in the erection of modern-styled residences, as well as the construction of many store buildings. The community has been under the commission-manager form of government for the past two years.

"Since the cessation of phosphate mining, cutting off a regular payroll of $40,000 per month, Fort Meade community has been and is at present coming into her rightful heritage again as an agricultural section. Large cabbage acreages have realized for the growers small fortunes, as likewise have the bean, squash, sweet and Irish potato, cucumber, peas, peppers, turnip greens, chufas, egg plant, and various other small vegetables and fruits, not overlooking strawberries, which have proved a money-making crop.

"This past season over a hundred acres were set to tomatoes. The crop was very successful, and marketing splendid, and final results satisfactory. Green corn also came in for a goodly share of the past season's farm products, between 250 and 300 acres having been planted, and "roasting ear corn" was plucked, packed and shipped by the carloads, bringing the growers an approximate net price of $4 per bushel—and not near the demand could be supplied.

"For the past three or four seasons Fort Meade has been steadily growing in favor as a watermelon center. The acreage this past season was approximately 560 acres. While the melon crop in the state as a whole suffered by the elements, buyers declare the Fort Meade section suffered the least of all, and the crop here was the equal of any in the state and the quality of the melons the best, the total number of carloads being shipped this season being 138. Already plans are being matured for practically doubling the acreage for next spring.

"And in addition to the renewed interest in agriculture, the citrus industry continues a staple crop—most every farm having a small grove which is an annual income-bringer. In addition to the big citrus acreages, which are small annual fortune-winners in themselves, there has sprung up another industry during the past three years. Reference is here made to the several small poultry ranches, and the addition of a second dairy for the community.

"In concluding this article on the resumé of recent progress, mention should be made concerning beautification. A beautification campaign for lawns and yards has been waged by the local Exchange Club for the past two years with excellent results. Every week some yard is awarded a prize yard sign. This stimulates and keeps up the work of beautification, and a cleaner town, perhaps, can't be found in Polk county than Fort Meade. The city commission is working on a project now whereby the phosphate pools within the city limits will be converted into a civic center rivaling the beauty spots of her sister cities. Also a strip along Peace river is included. Some of this beautification by the city commission is already under way."

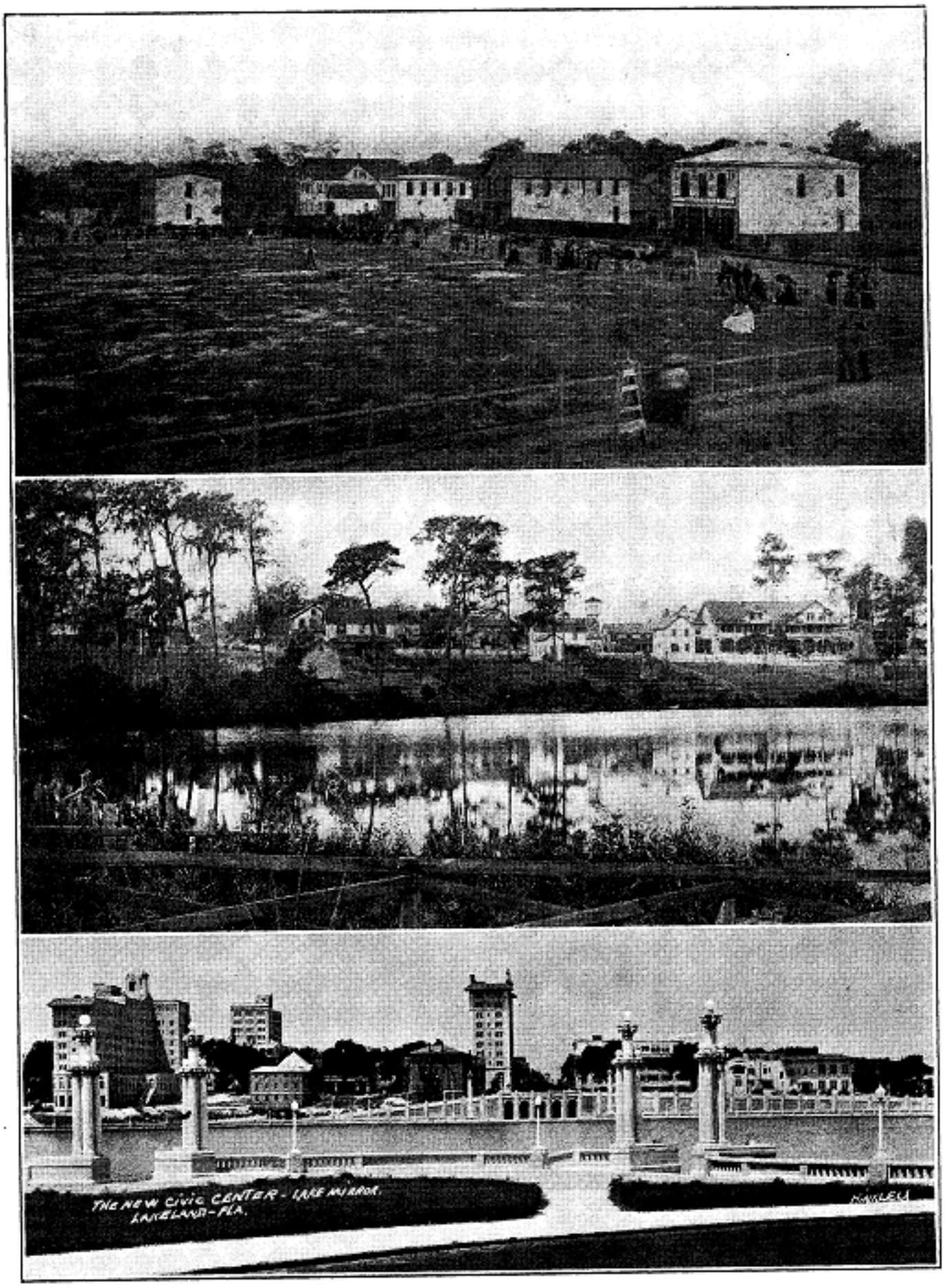
Fort Meade Newspapers.

Fort Meade's first newspaper, so far as our research discloses, was *The Fort Meade Pioneer,* which began publication in 1886 or 1887, Marsh and Crawford being editors. It was succeeded by the *South Florida Progress* in 1889, A. L. McFarlane, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Dawson, and A. J. Seddon being editors in turn. Mr. Seddon moved the plant to Bartow in 1894.

The Fort Meade Pebble, the first issue of which appeared August 4, 1893, was issued in the heighth of the phosphate boom. Kline O. Varn promoted the enterprise, and was editor of the paper for about two years, resigning in July, 1895. Capt. J. Northcutt took charge of the publication, F. Crawford later becoming editor. In July, 1896, the plant was leased by Prof. F. W. Graham, who changed the name to *The Times.* Editor Graham retired from the management in 1898, and was succeeded by F. F. Crawford, who had formerly been in charge. There was a period of suspension, Fort Meade being without a paper in 1900.

In March, 1901, E. Franklin Childers established *The Fort Meade Exponent,* he being editor and proprietor. Mr. Childers occupied the editorial tripod only a few months, retiring in August, 1901. There seems to have been no paper published in Fort Meade for several years after this, until Dr. W. F. Zander established *The Fort Meade Observer,* in August, 1907. The plant was destroyed by fire, September 5, 1909. After conducting the paper about two years, Dr. Zander traded it to E. L. Hockersmith in exchange for the latter's drugstore, and Ed Glaeseker became editor, with Frank Stephens as business manager. *The Observer,*

under Glaeseker's guidance, espoused the whiskey side during the memorable amendment campaign of 1910. Ernest B. Simmons offered some articles in reply to Glaeseker's anti-prohibition diatribes, but was unable to get them published, and determined to print a paper of his own, in order to get the prohibition side of the controversy before the people. The result was the birth of *The Fort Meade Leader*, the first issue of which appeared on March 10, 1910. Mr. Simmons had no plant, but had his paper printed at Bartow, and later at Arcadia. Within two months Glaeseker and Stephens sold out to Simmons, and *The Leader* began then to be printed at home, *The Observer* then, of course, ceasing to observe. Mr. Simmons, after editing the paper a little over a year, sold *The Leader* to Kline O. Varn, and the latter in turn sold it to R. O. Meek, early in 1912, Mr. Simmons, however, continuing as editor under both these ownerships. On June 1, 1912, A. L. Cleveland, of Mississippi, purchased a half-interest from Mr. Meek, and became editor. This arrangement has continued ever since, Allen Meek assuming the business management upon the death of his father. In the nearly score of years that *The Leader* has been published, the greater part of the time under the present ownership, it has faithfully adhered to the high principles and ideals on which it was founded, and has steadily grown in circulation and influence.



Upper—View of Main Street, Lakeland, About 30 Years Ago.
Middle—Where the Civic Center Now is Located 30 Years Ago.
Lower—Lakeland's New Civic Center, Completed 1928.

Chapter IV.

LAKELAND

The history of Lakeland as a community does not begin until 1883. Prior to that time there was nothing to indicate that a town would ever be built at this point. Here and there were small clearings where early settlers made their homes. At Medulla—in the Combee neighborhood—at Socrum—these primitive homes were a little more closely grouped—that is, there were perhaps a half-dozen more of them to the square mile. Medulla was the principal of these, possessing the only postoffice for miles around. There is evidence that prior to 1881 this settlement was known as Spring Hill. The name was changed to Medulla in the year mentioned.

Let us review the typical case of one of the settlers to whom allusion has been made:

In 1866, when Jesse Keen came to seek a homestead in what was then a wilderness, he ended his journey at a point which is now in the western limits of the then undreamed-of city of Lakeland. There was no reception committee; no hotel providing room with bath. Mr. Keen placed his wife, Elizabeth—she is living in the suburbs of Lakeland at this day—and their two small children at the foot of an oak tree for shelter, while he set about cutting pine poles to build a home. The dimensions of this first house, built of logs or poles, were 10x12 feet, with a dirt floor, and Mr. Keen spent five or six days getting it ready for occupancy.

When he looked about him for human associations, Mr. Keen found that his nearest neighbor was a man named John Futch, living on what has since been known as the Futch homestead, near where Winston now stands. John Futch was the grandfather of J. K. Futch, of Lakeland, and of J. M. Futch, who now lives about five miles south of the city. There was a man named Powers, who lived about three miles to the north, on what was known as the old Raulerson place, where there was later a little water mill, located on a stream, which was called the Raulerson Mill. A family named Raulerson lived adjoining the county line separating Polk and Hillsborough counties, and this is still known as the Raulerson place, being now owned by a grandson of John B. Raulerson—Derieux Raulerson, who is at this time clerk of the Circuit Court of Polk county. Five miles southwest was the George Hamilton homestead, now owned by George Hamilton, Jr. This homestead was established in 1842, and still remains in the family.

Further investigation by Mr. Keen found another neighbor, a Mr. Hollingsworth, for whom Lake Hollingsworth was named. On the east side of Lake Parker there also lived Elbert Combee—the name seeming to have been Coumbe at that time—who was the father and grandfather of the large Combee family that still lives in that neighborhood. These constituted the habitations at that time in the vicinity of the site on which Lakeland is built. Other settlers came in slowly, and for many years the increase in population was very gradual.

The first voting place in the vicinity was at a little country store located at about one-fourth of a mile north of Lake Gibson, the locality being known as Red Bug. At this store 50 cents would buy a quart of first-class rye whiskey, and the people from the Socrum and Combee settlements would gather there on Saturdays and engage in horse-racing and otherwise have what they considered a good time.

Most of these early settlers were "squatters," and did not own the land they occupied, but in the decade between 1870 and 1880, they began buying the lands on which they had lived, in some instances for many years; and there was much activity in taking up Government homesteads.

The first school in the vicinity was built by Jesse Keen and J. W. Futch—the latter, as heretofore stated, living about four miles to the southwest, on the place now known as the A. B. and D. B. Kibler grove and farm. This little school house was a small log building, floored with split boards, wide cracks in the walls, and without a door to close the opening. There was ample ventilation, furnished by the openings between the logs. The teacher was a niece of J. W. Futch, a Miss Eliza Jackson, who was reared near Tampa. Her salary was $7 per month for a term of three months. There were seven pupils—three children of J. W. Futch, three of Jesse Keen's, and one niece of the latter. The furniture of the school consisted of two cedar logs, hewn flat by means of a cleft axe. Holes were bored in these logs, and pegs fitted in them, which formed the legs of the crude benches. One of these cedar benches, preserved as it came from the school, may be seen today at the home of J. M. Keen, of Lakeland. About the year 1873 there was another school near Crystal Lake taught by a man named Grover. Among the patrons of this school were the Combees, Bates Polk, Holloways and Hulls.

Tampa was the nearest trading point, and in 1866 it was the nearest postoffice. It required three days, with horses or oxen, to make a round trip, and it was not usual for more than two or three trips a year to be made to that metropolis.

In the late '70's and early '80's, this section, in common with most of Polk county, felt the thrill of coming developments. The railroad was heading in this direction, and many persons were anxious to be on the ground when transportation opened up a new territory. During this period Archie McLeod arrived from Alabama, and bought land and planted an orange grove on the north side of Lake Hollingsworth, this property being now occupied by the grounds and buildings of Southern College. Jessie D. McLeod also located on Lake Hollingsworth about the same time, as did Rev. W. H. Goode. Rev. P. R. McCrary was living on Lake Hollingsworth as early as 1877; Judge Epps Tucker was at Medulla about the same time; Dr. J. A. Chapman came to Medulla in 1882; John W. and E. R. Trammell arrived from Alabama about the same time; Dr. J. L. Derieux reached here from Tennessee early in 1883, and located on a tract of land he bought from Jesse Keen on Bonnet Lake, cleared land and planted one of the first groves in or near Lakeland. Dr. Stephenson, of Kosciusko, Mississippi, was an early homesteader with his son, V. W. Stephenson. J. A. Gullett, from Alabama, located on lands just east of the present site of Southern College, later selling this property to Dr. J. W. Vineyard, of Virginia; Dr. J. A. Hart was located about three miles

south of this point; and there was a Mr. King, a Dr. Preston, of Virginia, and a Mr. Holt, of Kentucky, besides others whose names we may have overlooked or failed to learn.

All these newcomers, it should be understood, were here before Lakeland was thought of, though but a short time before the city's birth. Medulla, with its postoffice and two stores, was then the metropolis of its section. L. M. Ballard was postmaster, and was conducting one of the stores, and his brother, H. D. Ballard, who had been living at Bartow, came over to be associated with him in business. The other store was owned by Nathan Cochran. Miss Minnie Pearce was teaching the school; James A. Kilgore had the best cultivated orange grove in the section; D. M. Pipkin and John Trammell were advertising orange trees for sale; A. J. English, Peter C. Hayes and I. O. Harris were mentioned as residents of the community. Things were still pretty new and crude, and wild animals were yet disputing with man the ownership of the land. In 1882, Mrs. James Futch and daughter killed a large buck with an axe near their home in the vicinity of Medulla. The animal had been chased by dogs and ran into a deep gully, where it was cornered and dispatched by the ladies.

In 1882, L. W. Bates made a fine record in farming, producing from one and one-quarter acres syrup, sugar and corn, valued at $310. H. H. English, from three acres, got sugar and syrup to the value of $728. Jesse Keen got 400 bushels of potatoes from one acre, valued at $120, and left enough in the ground to fatten ten meat hogs.

The railroad gradually worked its way southward and westward into the county—a few miles would be constructed, and trains would be run to that point, and then a further extension would be built. Finally, Sanitaria was reached, and crews were sent ahead to clear the right-of-way, and cut the cross-ties and grade the road-bed. Meanwhile, the road was reaching out from Tampa, and gradually the two sections drew together, until finally they joined, the cow-catchers "kissing" at a point about six miles east of Lakeland—where later the station of Carter's stood—at 9 o'clock on the morning of January 23, 1884, the last rail having been laid on January 19.

Some months before this event—about June, 1883—a railroad construction camp had been located on Wire Lake. It was in charge of Herbert J. Drane, a young man who was superintending the building of the section of railroad that passed through this point. The laborers were all colored, and Mr. Drane seems to have been the first white man to have made his habitation in the territory comprised in the original limits of Lakeland. There were settlers in the country contiguous, some of whom have been named in this narrative, but on this particular tract—the 80 acres that formed the original Lakeland—there was no human habitation. A prairie schooner came through the woods to the camp one day—driven by a man of fine appearance, with his wife and several children. The man was W. B. Bonacker, who later established the first real store in the village. He stopped at the camp to inquire his way, being in quest of some friends, who he said a short time previous had preceded him, and had brought a small sawmill with them. Mr. Drane had heard the whistle of this mill, and was able to direct Mr.

Bonacker to where he could find his friends, on Lake Hollingsworth. They were Mr. Barhite and Mr. Watson, the latter being the father of Mr. George W. Watson.

So, the railroad camp formed a nucleus that attracted one after another to its neighborhood. The commercial aspects were quickly recognized, and L. M. Ballard packed up his goods at Medulla, together with his small postoffice fixtures, and moved the whole to Wire Lake, without taking the time or trouble to consult with the government. Only a short time thereafter Mr. Bonacker built a store, over which he arranged living quarters for himself and family. This building stood on the present site of the Deen-Bryant building, and the lot on which it was built is said to have been the first business lot that was sold in the town.

On Saturday, December 15, 1883, a meeting of citizens was called to name the new town. There are numerous stories as to who was responsible for the name "Lakeland" having been given to it; but a tradition that has been generally accepted, relates that the name was agreed upon by three men who presented it to the meeting, which adopted it. These three men were Rev. P. R. McCrary, E. R. Trammell and Dr. J. L. Derieux. All three of these men have descendants living in Lakeland at this time.

There may be some argument as to who gave the town its name, or as to some other phases connected with its beginnings, but no one disputes the claim that Abraham G. Munn was Lakeland's founder. About 1881, Mr. Munn, who was a wealthy manufacturer of Louisville, Kentucky, purchased from the trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of Florida, several thousand acres of land in the southern portion of the State. His son, Morris G. Munn, was then residing at DeLand, and at his father's request, he undertook to locate the lands that had been purchased. The journey from DeLand to Bartow then was almost equal to one across the continent now. First, there was a trip on a river boat to Jacksonville, then a slow, and zigzag journey across the State to Cedar Keys, on a narrow-gauge railroad. At Cedar Keys he boarded a small steamer, the "Lizzie Henderson", which conveyed him to Tampa, and from that village he traveled with the Star route government mail agent to Bartow, a distance of 45 miles, in the buggy which was used to convey the mails at that time. With the aid of County Surveyor Schipman, he located the lands, which were in scattered parcels, selecting an eighty-acre tract as a town-site, and on this tract the town of Lakeland was built. Samuel Munn, a brother of Morris G., surveyed and platted the town-site.

While matters were at this stage, Abraham G. Munn came down to look over his interests, and in February, 1884, the Lakeland Improvement Company was organized, the incorporators being Abraham G. Munn, Samuel A. Hartwell and Charles E. Hillman. The object of the corporation, as stated in the application for a charter, was "the laying out of a town-site—with streets, avenues and lots, designated on the map which will be on file in the Clerk's office in said county of Polk, the sale of the town lots so marked and mapped," etc. The authorized capital stock was $50,000.

Coincident with the beginnings of Lakeland, or possibly slightly in advance of them, there was begun the establishment of another town, about two miles east of Lakeland, by a colony of English people. An English gentleman named Han-

bury had acquired some lands in Florida, and the idea was conceived of establishing a town thereon, and selling the lots to his countrymen. The town was called Acton, for an English lord of that name, and P. E. Warburton was in charge of the operations. Prominent in the colony were: C. E. Garratt, who later for many years had a fine grove and home on Lake Gibson; Cecil Alleyne, Montague Villiers, a Count Bernstorff, and others. A considerable element of those who were induced to come to Acton was composed of younger sons of British families, who came out seeking fortune and adventure in a far land, a number of these being what is known as "remittance men." Mr. A. Hardaker, who is at this time a resident of the Galloway neighborhood, appears to be the only person left in this section who was a member of this colony. A town was laid out, there was a sawmill, a couple of stores, and an Episcopal church building, and several residences. In fact, in the very early stages of the two places, Acton was more of a town than Lakeland; but it was in an impossible location, on low-lying lands between Lake Parker and Lake Boney, and the enterprise was doomed to failure. In a few years it became a deserted village; its buildings were wrecked, and the materials hauled off by any who wished to use them in construction elsewhere, and eventually all traces of the settlement were obliterated. The postoffice was discontinued in 1889.

Meanwhile, Acton was for a time in a sense a rival of Lakeland, particularly in its relations with the railroad, and were it not for A. G. Munn's timely and diplomatic treatment of the situation, the embryo city of Lakeland would have received what might have been a fatal check. The railroad refused to stop its trains at the new town unless concessions were granted that were deemed unreasonable. It threatened to locate a station at Acton, and to pass Lakeland by. Indeed, a station was built a mile or so east of Acton, called Lake Parker station, but it was destroyed by fire; meantime, Mr. Munn had treated with the railroad on such a liberal basis that Lakeland's train facilities were insured. Besides giving the right-of-way and several acres for terminals, trackage, etc., Mr. Munn built, at his own expense, a station costing $2,500—a very much more commodious and attractive structure than the railroad was accustomed to build at much larger places. This was the beginning of Lakeland's importance as a railroad town—an importance that grew with the years, and was a great factor in the community's progress and upbuilding.

The town was nicely laid out, with its park in the center, and liberal provision for streets, alleys, etc., and it speedily began to grow. During the ensuing year, Mr. Munn's capital and far-sightedness provided a further splendid improvement in the shape of a fine hotel—the Tremont, which for a long time was regarded as one of the best hostelries in Florida. For some years it was under the management of Col. J. H. A. Bruce, who eventually purchased it. He was a man of unusual personality, and made the hotel extremely popular. J. A. Erskine was also an able manager of this hostelry.

Meantime, population was increasing by immigration—and otherwise. The first child born in the community was Dora Bonacker, now the wife of Dr. J. S. Helms, of Tampa; the second was Lillian Derieux, now Mrs. M. F. Hetherington, and the first male child was Ossian Drane, son of Hon. Herbert J. Drane. At least, this is the record that has been generally accepted as correct.

On January 1, 1885, a meeting was held for the purpose of incorporation, Judge Epps Tucker having prepared a suitable charter. Twenty-seven persons gave their approval to the articles of incorporation at this meeting, and elected municipal officers as follows: Mayor, John W. Trammell (father of Senator Park Trammell); Councilmen—W. B. Bonacker, Robert Bryant, Epps Tucker, Sr., F. R. Green, J. M. Clough, John D. Torrence and E. W. Toney. Dick Green, son of Councilman Green, was the first clerk and treasurer, and George F. Newell the first marshal and collector. Mr. Trammell resigned as mayor, after holding the office but a short time, and J. D. Torrence was chosen to fill the unexpired term. George Newell also held the position of marshal but a short time, when he was succeeded by Ben Parks. Mayor Torrence, who was a civil engineer, platted the site of Roselawn cemetery, and donated it to the city as a community burying ground, and was himself the first person to be buried there.

The removal of the Medulla postoffice to Lakeland by L. M. Ballard, without the sanction of the government, has been mentioned. Mr. Ballard made arrangements with the carrier who brought the mail from Tampa to Bartow three times a week, to deliver mail addressed to Medulla to his new location. The inauguration of train service, and the increased volume of mail, drew the attention of the government to this matter, and a postoffice called Lakeland was established, with Dr. F. L. Brooks as the first postmaster. Mr. Ballard was instructed to carry his postoffice back to Medulla, but he did not care to do this, and relinquished his official connection, continuing his mercantile business in Lakeland.

After the two stores we have mentioned, other business houses followed in about the order named: the late Robert Bryant and Burns Canning, of Tampa, opened a general store; Dr. F. L. Brooks and L. W. Cowdery established a furniture and drug store; D. H. Sloan, a general store, where the Bowyer block now stands; H. J. Drane also conducted a drug store for a time; Epps Tucker, Sr., was the first lawyer, and Dr. J. L. Derieux the first physician. It might be mentioned, however, that before Lakeland existed, Dr. J. A. Chapman, of Galloway, was the only practicing physician in the entire section. He is still living in that vicinity, at an advanced, but vigorous, age. Dr. J. M. Perry was also an early physician of Lakeland. Epps Tucker, A. A. Scott and F. R. Green established a real estate agency quite early, and Torrence & Bristow was a civil engineering firm.

The Florida Southern Railroad, extending from Pemberton Ferry to Lakeland, was built in 1885, the rails being laid into Lakeland in August of that year. The first train, having President Ingraham for a passenger, was run on August 21st. There was a formal opening of the road, with a celebration, October 15, 1885. Samuel M. Munn was marshal of the day, his aides being C. H. Alleyne and Count Bernstorff. There was a baseball game between Lakeland and Kissimmee, a barbecue and speeches by Mayor Torrence, S. M. Sparkman, Col. G. A. Hanson, St. Clair Abrams, and Count Bernstorff—the latter a Prussian nobleman, who had recently located in the vicinity, having bought property on Lake Hollingsworth. Others who were active in the celebration were Manager Timberlake, of the Tremont hotel, "Governor" J. M. Palmer, C. H. Billings, etc.

A calaboose was an early necessity. It was called the McDermott House—being so named for its first occupant.

The Presbyterians seemed to have had the first church building, and it was used by other denominations for their services. It stood, until a few years ago, on the site of the Collins Arcade. Rev. C. E. Jones was the first minister in charge of this church. The Baptists had a small church building at or near the location of the present First Baptist church, almost as soon as the Presbyterians. The Methodists put up their first church building, at a cost of $2,200, in 1888.

The first school building was located in a piece of woodland, at the point where Tennessee avenue and Lime street now intersect. C. M. Bishop was the first teacher. He is now Dean of the Southern Methodist University of Dallas, Texas. The school was known as "The Academy." It remained at this location until 1902, when it opened in a new brick building on Lake Wire, which had just been completed, built with the proceeds of Lakeland's first bond issue, amounting to $10,000.

Lakeland's first bank was established in 1886 by L. J. J. Nieuwenkamp. It served the community well for about 18 years, failing in 1904.

Lakeland had a colored population in 1887 of 150. They had a neat church and a good school, and were described as industrious and thrifty.

Lakeland Lodge No. 91, F. & A. M., was organized in April, 1887. J. L. Derieux was W. M.; Col. F. R. Green, S. W.; W. B. Bonacker, J. W.

In 1887, Ed Tison was conducting a nursery in Lakeland. Mr. Tison at this writing lives in California, and claims to have originated the Marsh Seedless grapefruit from cuttings of a tree growing on the place of J. H. Hancock in the Kathleen section. About the time he had this fruit perfected, however, he sold his nurseries to C. M. Marsh, who gave his name to this variety of the citrus family.

C. E. Garratt, originally with the English colony at Acton, later located on Lake Gibson, where he had a fine home and grove. He brought many old country customs with him. One of these was an annual sporting event in May, and "Garratt's Picnic" was for a long time a well-known and popular institution of this section. There would be all kinds of sporting and athletic games, numerous prizes being offered to the most proficient.

The roll of honor for the school in January, 1888, held these names: Minnie Boswell, Nettie Boswell, Leila Galloway, Jennie Cresap, Rosa Marshall, Mamie McCrary, Althea Nieuwenkamp, Addie Ballard, Mattie Flanagan, Rebecca Boswell, Wilma Trammell, Alice Bonacker, Sallie Carlton, Jay Derieux, Betty Toney, Maggie Hardaker, Maggie Carlton, Frank Bowyer, Albert Torrence, Clinton Brooks, Harry Jones, Caswell McMullen, Edgar McMullen, Joe Evans, Walter Malsby, Hubert Marshall, Phil Evans, Fred Bowyer, Otho Cresap, Harry Derieux, Worth Trammell.

The *Lakeland Cracker* complained of the fleas in town, and suggested as a remedy for the situation the elimination of hogs from the streets.

J. W. Emerson bought the Tremont hotel and other valuable property in 1888. He lived on "The Mount," on the south shore of Lake Hollingsworth.

In 1888, the Lakeland cornet band was organized; the town had four doctors, and each was "out of a job"; there was no barber in town; and J. L. Hollingsworth and Miss Adrienne Tison taught the term of the Lakeland school, beginning in the fall of that year.

In the winter of 1888, H. S. Galloway demonstrated the profitable character of the strawberry crop, and its adaptability to this section, by netting over $600 from a single acre of strawberries. Mr. Galloway was the originator of the strawberry industry in this county, and it has ever since been one of the most dependable and staple of our agricultural resources. Sons of Mr. Galloway have been, and are at this time, growing berries with marked success in the neighborhood named for their father, and where he first demonstrated the possibilities of berry culture in this section.

The Lakeland Park Association was formed in July, 1888, for the purpose of beautifying the Park. Each member was required to plant a tree or shrub and take care of it. The ladies gave entertainments and "festivals", and otherwise raised money for park improvement. A small building was eventually put up in the Park, which was called the "Pavillion", and which was the civic center of the community. Besides being used for public gatherings at various times, it was the meeting place of the city council. The public records were kept there, and a portion of them that is missing is said to have been devoured by a pet goat, which was browsing in the Park and wandered into the building in search of a change of diet. The goat was the property of Wakefield Ramsdell, the young son of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Ramsdell, who are still residents of Lakeland. The building fell into disuse after the erection of the first City Hall in 1905, and was moved to the Lake Wire school grounds, where it helped to relieve overcrowded conditions during a period of inadequate school accommodations.

Lakeland's first electric lighting plant was built and operated by Harry C. Sloan, now a resident of California. Mrs. E. B. Briggs, it is said, furnished the money, the plant being purchased by the city later. It was located at the corner of Cedar street and Massachusetts avenue. Lights were turned on May 26, 1891. The first arc lights, five in number, were located, one on the corner of Main and Massachusetts; one in the center of the Park; one at Kentucky and Pine; one in front of the depot, and one at the power house. It is claimed there were only two other towns—Jacksonville and Tampa—that had electric lights at that time.

Mrs. Mary Vineyard was appointed postmaster of Lakeland in June, 1889, succeeding Mrs. W. M. Boswell.

In 1893, the head office of the Winston & Bone Valley railroad was moved to Lakeland, and it was expected that trains over that line would soon be running regularly; John W. Trammell (Senator Park Trammell's father) was appointed superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane; a cigar factory began operations; many lemons were being shipped; W. A. Poteet was leader of the Lakeland band.

Miss Minnie Boswell was referred to as "one of Lakeland's charming young ladies" in 1893. She is now Mrs. George W. Watson. Others mentioned as belles of the time were Miss Maude Talley, Miss Annie Tucker, Miss Jewell Scott, Miss Donnie Pipkin, Miss Ellen Boss, etc.

Assessed valuation of Lakeland's property in October, 1893, was $168,000, an increase of $11,000 over the year previous.

A Literary and Social Society was organized in 1893, and weekly meetings were held.

In the latter part of 1893, Captain L. M. Ballard opened the Florida House; Lakeland's ball team was beating Bartow's—sometimes; J. C. Wilbur was town marshal, and Capt. U. H. Hane was night policeman.

The burning of a house belonging to Mrs. Rountree, near the corner of Pine and Tennessee, emphasized the need of organizing a fire company.

In December, 1893, an attempt was made to blow open the safe and vault of the Lakeland Bank. The would-be burglars secured a carpet from the Episcopal church, and after wetting it in Mirror Lake, proceeded to the Bank, where they wrapped it securely around the safe by means of a rope. They then drilled holes in top of the safe, and placed dynamite in them. The explosion accomplished nothing except to disfigure the exterior of the safe, and to destroy a few papers of small value.

Lakeland was early an important railroad center. It had twenty trains arriving and departing daily in 1893.

The annual "foot-washing" at Mt. Enon used to be one of the events anticipated by Lakeland people, many of whom attended.

The S. F. & W. railroad was contributing a payroll of $2,000 a month to Lakeland's prosperity in 1894, "and yet", comments the chronicler of that time, "some crooks dislike the railroad company."

In 1894 Lakeland was shipping more strawberries than any other place in the State; H. J. Drane was doing a "rushing insurance business all over South Florida"; Clarence Boswell was mayor; a hose company was being organized; L. N. Pipkin was manager of the Farmers' Alliance store; W. B. Bonacker was chairman of the city council; Baldrick's Hall seems to have been the place where public gatherings were held; and C. W. Waggoner was preparing to establish an ice factory.

Kinney Bros., who had been growing truck and fruit in the Haines City section, located at Lakeland, with their niece, Miss Addie Brock, in 1895.

Excursions to Picnic Island, at Port Tampa, were not infrequent social events, usually under the auspices of the Sunday School.

Lakeland was launching an advertising campaign in 1895. The city council voted an appropriation of $25 to assist the *Lakeland Sun* in issuing and distributing a pamphlet.

At the November, 1895, election, the following officers were chosen: C. A. Boswell, mayor; J. R. Foster, marshal; C. D. Clough, clerk and treasurer; W. B. Bonacker, C. T. Henderson, S. L. A. Clonts, J. H. McCreight, L. W. Malsby, A. E. Sloan, and W. K. McRae, councilmen.

In 1895, C. M. Marsh was operating a nursery; Otho Cresap won a competitive appointment to the naval academy; Prof. Arthur Williams, Miss Rosa Longmire and Miss May Harrell were teaching the public school; a round house was erected by the railroad company; and Capt. L. M. Ballard, who opened the first store in Lakeland, re-entered the mercantile field in December, buying the N. B. Bowyer stock of groceries.

N. B. Bowyer was not carried away by the eloquence of the "boy orator of the Platte" in 1896. He was a gold standard advocate, and wrote some strong articles to the papers defending his position.

N. L. Turner was offering 3¾ cents per pound for good seed cotton, cash or trade, delivered at his gin in Lakeland.

J. P. Thompson was appointed justice of the peace for the Lakeland district in November, 1896. He held this position for many years.

In November, 1896, J. P. Thompson was elected mayor; J. R. Feaster was marshal; C. D. Clough, clerk; T. J. Darracott, A. E. Sloan and W. D. McRae, councilmen.

R. O. Cresap was appointed postmaster in 1896. He took charge February 15, 1897, and was assisted by L. T. Morgan, and his son, Phil Cresap. Mrs. Mary Vineyard had been postmaster for about seven years, with Dr. J. W. Vineyard as her assistant.

In 1896, the Duvernette Bros. were progressive truckers; Judge Epps Tucker was a candidate for State Comptroller; there was talk of building a bicycle track around Lake Wire or Lake Morton; W. H. Streeter moved to Lakeland from Bartow, and commenced the manufacture of cigars; and there were 305 registered voters in the Lakeland district.

H. J. Drane was re-elected as Engrossing Clerk of the House at the 1897 session of the Legislature.

The graduating class of the Lakeland High School in 1897 was composed of the following: Miss Alice K. Bonacker, salutatorian; Mrs. Allie Lewis, Misses Emma Hane, Lucy Thompson, Rebecca Boswell, Fannie Rogers, Florence Scott; Messrs. W. Norman Withrow, Albert M. Torrence; and Miss Flossie Wilder, valedictorian. The school was conducted that year by Prof. Arthur Williams, later for many years connected with the Florida State College for Women. Mrs. R. W. Erwin had charge of the primary department.

A Board of Trade was organized in June, 1897. One of its first acts was the appointment of a committee consisting of C. M. Marsh, J. W. Reno, S. L. A. Clonts, Robert Bryant, N. A. Riggins, E. P. Hansard, J. A. Erskine and Pierce Tucker, which was to take steps to organize a county fair. The proposed site was near Lake Morton, and a race track was one of the features contemplated. Lakeland agreed to take half the stock, and other places in the county pledged co-operation. An organization was effected October 30, with the following officers: C. M. Marsh, president; N. A. Riggins, first vice-president; E. W. Codington, second vice-president; F. W. Inman, third vice-president; J. A. Erskine, secretary; L. J. J. Nieuwenkamp, treasurer; H. J. Drane, assistant secretary, and twenty-three directors from different sections of the county. As an outcome of this movement, fairs were held in Lakeland in 1898 and 1899, as related in the chapter of General Polk County History in this work.

In 1897-8 the principal of the Lakeland High School was A. B. Lampkin; assistant, Mrs. Arthur Williams; primary principal, Mrs. R. W. Erwin; assistants, Misses Lucy Thompson and Rebecca Boswell. Prof. Arthur Williams was principal of Summerlin Institute that year.

The Lakeland school building, with all its contents, burned October 4, 1897. It was supposed to have been set on fire by a tramp. School stopped for one day only, the new Bryant building being utilized. A temporary building was hastily constructed. There were about 200 pupils at the time.

Bicycle paths from one town to another were being agitated as earnestly as motor roads were later.

In 1897, Riggins & Waggoner were operating a rice mill; S. Raymondo was having a business block erected on Kentucky avenue; Prof. J. A. Cox moved from Auburndale to Lakeland; and S. L. A. Clonts had bought a lot, preparatory to putting up a business building.

Lakeland's Plant System ball team in 1897 was composed of the following: C. E. McMullen, J. M. Roberts, A. Torrence, A. Armistead, Carl Bowyer, Ben Tedder, A. Brasington, Bryan Chapman, Fred Bowyer, Jim Karnes, John Thompson and T. F. Griffin.

J. L. Skipper was appointed postmaster of Lakeland in November, 1897. He was a resident of Bartow at the time, and had applied for the position of postmaster of that city, but the powers, in dividing up the spoils, gave him the Lakeland office. He moved to Lakeland and assumed his duties on New Year's day, 1898, and made an efficient postmaster for nearly 16 years, resigning late in 1913.

Harry Derieux, only son of Dr. J. L. Derieux, Lakeland's first physician, was drowned in Bonnet Lake, April 19, 1898. He started across the lake in a small row boat, which was later found adrift in the lake, but as he was an expert swimmer, the manner of his death was never known. He was a brother of Mrs. M. F. Hetherington and Miss Gertrude Derieux, who are residents of Lakeland.

In May, 1898, troops were mobilizing in Florida preparatory to being sent to Cuba, and there were about 6,000 soldiers encamped at Lakeland, a considerable number of whom were colored. There were numerous disturbances, a notable instance being the killing of Joab Collins on May 16th. Two or three negro soldiers entered a barber shop in a building where the First National Bank now stands, and demanded to be shaved. They were refused and came out swearing, but were forced to move on by the police. Returning later, they began to smash in the windows of the barber shop, and to fire their guns into the air. Collins, T. F. Griffin and others, who were on the opposite side of the street, started across to see what the disturbance was about, when the negroes opened fire. One ball barely grazed Griffin, another killing Collins instantly. Two negroes were arrested and turned over to the civil authorities by Col. Young, who was in command of the troops at Lakeland. The negro soldiers were disarmed and special guards were placed on duty. The two negroes arrested were given a preliminary trial and bound over to the grand jury, after which they were sent to Tampa for safe-keeping owing to feeling in Lakeland running high. A special term of the Circuit Court was held in Bartow to try the negroes. One of them was released for lack of evidence; the other was given a life sentence in the penitentiary.

There was another disturbance on August 17 when one white soldier shot and killed another in a gaming house. The same day a captain of the commissary suicided by shooting himself. The negro soldiers left about this time, and Lakeland was relieved to see them go. Two regiments of cavalry (white) remained for a while longer.

In the fall of 1898 the Lakeland Public school was in charge of Prof. T. B. Kirk. Miss Annie Bulloch was assistant in the High School, Mrs. R. W. Erwin

was in charge of the primary department, assisted by Miss Alice Bonacker and Miss Bessie Sherman.

The following city officials were elected in November, 1898: Mayor, J. P. Thompson; marshal and collector, C. H. Peavy; clerk, treasurer and assessor, C. D. Clough; councilmen, J. R. Foster, F. M. Smith, F. P. Hansard, N. A. Riggins, J. C. Street.

In 1898, W. H. Miller, of Galloway, sold strawberries in New York for $1.12½ per quart; some street paving had been done, with Bartow clay; the Oriole Club flourished as a social organization; Judge Tucker moved back to Lakeland from Bartow, where he had resided temporarily on account of official duties; there were no vacant stores or houses in Lakeland, and there was demand for both; handsome pews were put in the Baptist church; a whist club was organized, with W. B. Bonacker president, and J. A. Erskine, secretary; and, in December, the Van Huss opera house was opened by the "Imperial Colored Minstrels."

In 1899 it was suggested that "a rack be put in the Park, and our country cousins be allowed to use same as a wagon yard. This would ruin the grass, but as it is already used as a barn lot by some, a few more wouldn't hurt."

J. J. Evans and his daughter, Hope, while returning from prayer meeting on the night of November 5, 1899, were struck by an engine in the yards. Mr. Evans was killed instantly, and the young lady died after a few hours.

"A respectable school building and waterworks" were the things stressed as being the most needed in Lakeland in 1899.

In November, 1899, R. R. Herron established the business he conducted here for many years, and which is still being carried on by his son and daughter, R. R. Herron and Miss Manona Herron.

Dr. J. W. Vineyard, S. M. Stephens, the Kinney Brothers and J. A. MacDonald were growing and shipping much fine truck in the Lake Hollingsworth section in 1899. A Tampa paper referred to Kinney Bros. as the largest strawberry growers of the State.

The postoffice at Medulla, which had been discontinued, was re-established in 1899, and T. J. McMullen was appointed postmaster.

In 1899, W. J. Carter was building a big lumber and shingle mill at Carters; $1 and $1.25 a quart was netted on some strawberry shipments; in March there was a smallpox scare; houses were in demand and rents high; Roscoe Skipper celebrated his 7th birthday on March 23rd; the need of a fire department or bucket brigade was felt; Park Trammell hung out his shingle as lawyer that summer; and S. Raymondo took a trip to Italy.

S. W. Ellerbe seems to have been the town's first barber. D. Wingood succeeded him in March, 1900.

Early in 1900, Col. J. H. A. Bruce resumed the management of the Tremont hotel after it had been in charge of J. A. Erskine for several years.

Dr. W. S. Irvin, who had been living at Auburndale for some years, opened dental offices in Lakeland in August, 1900. He has been a successful practitioner of dentistry at practically the same stand to this date.

In 1900, W. J. Carter had his big lumber and shingle mill in operation; A. J. Morgan, of near Winston, was shipping much truck, particularly egg plant; W. J. Bryan spoke briefly to the people when passing through Lakeland in February; C. E. Garratt went to England to enlist in the Boer War; and Park Trammell, who had been part owner of the *Lakeland Sun,* sold his interest to the other partner, C. D. Clough.

The *Lakeland Sun,* edited by the late C. D. Clough, noted in August, 1901, that "the telephone exchange is a certainty, and as time goes swiftly by there comes with it the assurances that the pretty little city nestled among the lakes will, in the near future, become a place of much importance." The first telephones were installed in December, 1901.

In 1901 A. B. Jarrell was principal of the Lakeland schools; Miss May Tomlinson, assistant principal; Miss Hattie Sherman, second assistant; Mrs. R. W. Erwin, first teacher primary department; Miss Pearl Gracy, second; Miss Lena McCrary, third.

New residences were being built at this time by Park Trammell, C. D. Clough, W. V. Ellis, J. F. Gracy, G. P. Quaintance, A. E. Sloan, and many others.

Lakeland's first bond issue—$10,000 for a school building, was voted August 19, 1901. Dr. L. F. Henley, C. W. Waggoner and J. F. Gracy were chosen as bond trustees.

The passenger station and express office burned in August, 1901. W. D. McRae, contractor, built a new combination building a few months later.

S. S. Griffin, brother of Dr. John D. Griffin, a present Lakeland resident, in 1901 moved to a point between Lakeland and Galloway and established the station of Griffin.

Municipal officers elected in 1901 were: Park Trammell, mayor; Epps Tucker, Jr., marshal; John F. Cox, clerk, treasurer and assessor; H. J. Drane, N. A. Riggins, O. J. Pope and A. E. Sloan, councilmen.

In 1901, Lakeland had a Strawberry and Vegetable Growers' Union, with O. J. Pope as manager of shipments; L. W. Yarnall removed to Lakeland from Haines City, where he had resided for years; and U. G. Bates, for years afterwards a leading merchant, bought the stock of the Lakeland Grocery Company, and begun business.

Claire Henley returned from Stetson University in June, 1902, and the baseball boys were delighted, Claire being an expert pitcher. The baseball war between Lakeland and Bartow waxed hot that year—sometimes to the point of personal encounter.

The State Bank of Fort Meade removed to Lakeland in September, 1902, and became the State Bank of Lakeland. E. O. Flood was cashier, and moved to Lakeland with the bank. John F. Cox took a position as assistant cashier.

Lakeland opened its fine new school building in September, 1902. It was located on Wire Lake, where the present High School building stands. About 300 children were enrolled.

In 1902 there were 127 registered voters in the Lakeland precinct, and 139 in Bartow. At this time the road between Bartow and Lakeland was described as "a huge bed of sand."

Capt. J. P. Scarlett, one of the oldest railroad men in Florida, was struck by a train while crossing the tracks, and died in a few hours. This occurred in November, 1902.

At Christmas time, 1902, teachers of the Lakeland school presented Rev. W. M. Boswell, chairman of the County School Board, with a handsome gold-headed cane.

In 1902, Ex-Governor Glick of Kansas was spending the first of a number of winters here; J. E. Swanson was conducting the Sunnyside hotel; and both Park Trammell and H. J. Drane were elected as representatives.

The Lakeland Building & Improvement Co. made plans early in 1903 for the building of a brick business block—the second in Lakeland—N. B. Bowyer having erected the Bowyer block a short time before. The new structure was called the Kentucky building, and was for some years the best business building in Lakeland, and even at this time is a creditable structure. The company was composed of M. G. Munn, H. J. Drane, W. R. Groover, U. J. Simmons, and W. T. Johns. W. B. Talley was the architect, as he was of practically all of the important buildings erected in the earlier days of Lakeland.

T. B. Kirk was principal of the Lakeland school in 1903; Miss May Tomlinson, first assistant; Mrs. R. W. Erwin, primary department; assistant, Miss Pearl Gracy; second grade, Miss Lena McCrary; third grade, Miss Lula Cochrane; fourth grade, Miss Hattie Sherman; fifth and sixth grades, H. L. Swatts; seventh and eighth, Miss Leitner.

In 1903, Forrest Clonts was pronounced a "musical prodigy," playing the piano with remarkable skill; W. J. Reddick came from Pavo, Georgia, and engaged in the grocery business, continuing in the same line, without interruption, for more than 20 years; J. Wes Bryant sold $25,000 worth of cattle to Dr. Lykes, of Ballast Point, for shipment to Cuba; Dr. John Griffin, who was about to graduate from the Atlanta Medical College, was helping Dr. W. R. Groover with his extensive practice; and, in June of that year, Lakeland voted bonds in the sum of $35,000 for public improvements.

S. T. Hollingsworth, who died at Galloway, October 3, 1903, had lived in his house at that place for half a century. He was the father of Mrs. E. G. Gardiner of that place.

The following city officials were elected in 1903: S. L. A. Clonts, mayor; John F. Cox, clerk and treasurer; A. J. Mills, marshal and collector; O. J. Pope, G. L. Tate, L. J. J. Nieuwenkamp, Jr., U. J. Simmons, councilmen.

In November, 1903, a camp of the U. C. V. was organized at Lakeland. J. A. Cox was commander; Epps Tucker, first lieutenant-commander; R. O. Cresap, adjutant; W. M. Boswell, chaplain; L. M. Ballard, treasurer.

In 1903, J. M. Peacock was operating the Lakeland Lumber Company, of which the Lakeland Manufacturing Co. is the successor; Callahan & Co. established a considerable lumber and naval stores industry at Pridgen, once a station between Lakeland and Haskell, where a village flourished, of which there is at present scarce a trace; in August, S. L. A. Clonts completed his handsome brick building, corner Kentucky avenue and Pine street; the State Bank moved to its new

location in the Kentucky building; R. Morse & Co. bought Riggins' rice mill; John F. Cox resigned as assistant cashier of the State Bank, and engaged in real estate and insurance; and there was not a vacant house in Lakeland, either business or residence.

On February 10, 1904, Lakeland was visited by a disastrous fire, two blocks in the principal business section being destroyed. The buildings burned included 21 business houses and residences, two hotels, three offices and a number of outbuildings. The burned area included all between the railroad and Main street, and between Kentucky avenue on the west and Massachusetts avenue on the east. There was no fire protection except the bucket brigade, which worked valiantly, getting water from Lake Mirror, and passing it in buckets along the line. The fire raged two hours, the inflammable and unsubstantial character of the buildings making the work of destruction rapid. The Tremont hotel was saved with difficulty.

There was another disastrous fire on May 11, 1904, the third in a year. This time it was the entire Adams' block that was destroyed. Among those who were losers were J. Q. Adams, owner of the buildings, and also of a general store; A. M. Roe, general merchant; J. W. Lanier, who had a grocery; a barber shop owned by a Mr. Tillis; the Piedmont hotel and cafe operated by W. J. Toland; a fruit and cold drink stand, etc. The people were much concerned and incensed by these frequent and destructive fires, the circumstances under which they had occurred being suspicious. There was also a demand that something be done to protect the property of the town. However, the buildings were soon replaced by structures of a much more substantial character, pending the completion of which, a number of merchants continued their operations in temporary quarters, in rude shacks erected in the park.

The Bartow and Lakeland papers were at it hammer and tongs these days. Bartow feared Lakeland would steal her court house—and Lakeland might have done it, given the opportunity.

The new Baptist church was dedicated Sunday, December 18, 1904. Rev. J. L. Tharp was the pastor, and assisting in the ceremonies were Revs. W. D. Turnley, of Arcadia; L. D. Geiger, of Apopka; T. J. Sparkman, of DeLand, and R. T. Caddin, of Lakeland. The building was of brick, and cost $8,000. The pastor announced that $2,700 was needed to complete payment for building and furnishings, and the amount was raised in a few minutes.

John W. Trammell, pioneer citizen, and father of Senator Park Trammell, died September 24, 1904.

C. E. Reed, of Bartow, finished drilling Lakeland's first municipal well in February, 1905. It was over 500 feet deep, and furnished about 300 gallons per minute.

The Citizens Bank opened early in 1905. R. O. Cresap was president; H. J. Drane, vice-president, and T. W. Conrad, cashier. Later this bank became the First National, the present prosperous institution.

In October, 1905, H. B. Carter and associates acquired the big lumber mill business at Carter's, including about 85,000 acres of timber lands, the concern

being known as the Carter Manufacturing Co. The business had been established by W. J. Carter, a brother of H. B. Carter.

Municipal officers elected in the fall of 1905 were: John F. Cox, mayor; C. E. McMullen, clerk, treasurer and assessor; John Logan, marshal and collector; E. O. Flood, C. G. Memminger, L. M. Ballard and J. B. Armistead, councilmen. J. C. Owens was elected councilman, vice A. S. Wingood, resigned; and L. M. Ballard died in April, 1906, and G. B. Murrell was elected to fill the vacancy.

In 1905, "The Electric Theater," Lakeland's first motion picture show, was being operated by R. R. Daniel; the Ladies' Whist Club was active; and Col. T. J. Hooks was writing poetry—and not bad poetry at that.

The first music club of the city was formed at the home of Mrs. E. C. Angell in January, 1906. Mrs. H. J. Drane was president; Mrs. A. R. Bond, vice-president, and Mrs. S. T. Fletcher, directress. The name chosen for the organization was the Beethoven Club.

On January 1, 1906, fire destroyed the L. W. Cowdery building, the T. J. McKnight grocery, Lawton Bryant's seed store, Johns' meat market, Johnson's restaurant and store, and Armistead's tannery. These buildings were on the south side of Main street, between Tennessee avenue and Florida avenue.

Graduates of the Lakeland High School in 1906 were Misses Nell White, Mabel Drane and Frances Riggins, and Mr. Earle McRae. Miss Drane was valedictorian.

The Catholics completed their church building, corner Lemon street and Missouri avenue, and services were held for the first time in the structure on Sunday, April 8, 1906. The fine lot on which the church was erected had been donated by Mrs. M. J. Malloy, who is still a member of the congregation.

Patterson, Finney & Cox were having a survey made of "Dixieland", the first important subdivision of Lakeland. John F. Cox was the active spirit.

Mayor Cox presented the city with a fountain from which either man or beast might drink, in July, 1906. It stood for a decade or more at the southeast corner of Munn Park. W. W. Moss and O. S. Van Huss contributed the work of installation.

In 1906 Park Trammell and John S. Edwards formed a law partnership; Dr. A. R. Bond established the first hospital—a private institution; on February 22, Sam Jones lectured at the school auditorium; and a couple of strands of wire were placed around the city park to keep the cattle out.

Mrs. S. E. Blount, who conducted the Glenada hotel on Pine street—now the Eureka—was killed by an electric shock in September, 1907, when she placed her hand on a water pipe in the hotel, owing to some defect in the wiring.

The Medulla Phosphate Co.'s plant was built under the direction of C. G. Memminger in 1907.

The Medulla Methodist church was dedicated Sunday, October 27, 1907. Rev. J. R. Cason preached the dedicatory sermon.

John Logan, who had made a splendid city marshal, entered the race for sheriff in 1907. He was elected, and filled the office for many years in a way that won praise from all.

The Christian church was dedicated Sunday, March 22, 1908. Rev. H. C. Garrison conducted the services. This church, a small wooden building, stood at the corner of Lemon street and Missouri avenue.

A Polk County Fair was held at Lakeland, March 25, 26 and 27, 1908. The County Commissioners had contributed $300 toward the enterprise, and after paying all expenses and premiums, Secretary Paul Gardner turned back $24.90 to the county treasury. There were fine displays of fruit, vegetables and other products. The Association presented Mrs. M. F. Hetherington with a chest of silver, in recognition of her work in behalf of the project. Similar fairs were held for several years under the auspices of the Farmers' Club, and they were always helpful enterprises.

An auction sale of lots in Dixieland was held in January, 1908. The lots brought from $130 to $150.

Municipal officers in 1908: Mayor, John F. Cox; clerk, treasurer and assessor, H. L. Swatts; councilmen, P. B. Haynes, A. S. J. McKenney, W. P. Pillans, G. B. Murrell, E. O. Flood.

At a meeting of the city council in April, 1908, the city park was formally given the name of Munn Park, in honor of A. G. Munn, who donated it to the city.

There were twelve graduates of the Lakeland High School in 1908. They were: Misses Nora Hart, Frankie Raulerson, Hattie Patton, Bessie Johnson, Bessie Adams, Mary McRae, Bertha Brassell, Ruth Thorpe, Vera Quaintance, Winnie Streater, and Messrs. Robert F. Walker and Grover Tillis.

The Fats vs. the Leans was a baseball game that afforded much fun in August, 1908. The Fats were: Dr. J. F. Wilson, R. M. Marler, Wes McRae, J. L. Skipper, U. G. Bates, F. D. Bryan, Jack Scarlett, A. S. J. McKenney and E. G. Tweedell. The leans were: Arnold Armistead, E. H. Hopkins, N. A. Riggins, M. F. Hetherington, John F. Cox, B. F. Wilson, J. W. Buchanan, W. P. Pillans, and R. E. Scipper. The Leans were victorious. So much fun was had by everybody that the game was repeated the following week.

On his retirement as superintendent of the Light and Water plant, September 1, 1908, C. E. McMullen was given a rising vote of thanks by the city council for faithful and efficient service.

Herron's Opera House was opened with a home talent minstrel show on October 22, 1908. It was a great improvement over any show house Lakeland possessed theretofore.

Fire in the spring of 1908, destroyed a large part of the block on Main street between Kentucky and Tennessee avenues. The buildings were old and dilapidated, and their removal evidently made the lots more valuable, for in September all records for high values in real estate were broken, when what was known as the Bonacker corner, at Main and Kentucky, which had been made vacant by the fire, was purchased by C. W. Deen and Robert Bryant for $13,500.

Gen. J. A. Cox was elected Commander of the Third Brigade at the Confederate Veterans' Reunion held at Tampa in October, 1908.

The first inmates of the Methodist orphanage at Enterprise were two children sent from Lakeland in October, 1908. Their mother, Mrs. Jake Nelson, died suddenly, and their father was unable to care for them.

A voluntary fire department was organized in January, 1909. H. L. Swatts was chief, and Clarence Perry was secretary.

At the celebration of Lee's birthday, January 19, 1909, Gen. E. M. Law was orator of the day. There was an oratorical contest in which a medal was offered by the U. D. C. for the delivery of the best original essay on the subject, "The Battle of Gettysburg." Miss Beulah Hooks was winner of the medal.

William Jennings Bryan delivered his famous lecture, "The Prince of Peace", in Lakeland February 6, 1909, and there was a very large gathering to welcome and listen to him.

On February 9, 1909, a negro made an attempt to assault a young white girl who lived about two miles north of Lakeland, while she was walking in to attend the city school. When the fact became known, a mob formed, and as one negro suspect after another was brought in, there was difficulty in preventing a lynching. One Charlie Crumley was thought by the girl to resemble her assailant, and on this dubious identification the jail was stormed, the negro marched through the streets, accompanied by hundreds, to the scene of the crime. Here he was about to be burned, wood having been piled around him, and oil poured on him. Just before the match was applied, however, the girl's grandfather appeared and declared it to be his belief that Crumley was not the guilty party. Taking advantage of the momentary diversion thus caused, Sheriff Logan seized the negro and managed to get him back to jail. Excitement continued, however, and it was expected that another attack on the jail would be made that night. A dead-line was thrown around the building, and a dozen or more armed citizens deputized by the sheriff, stood on guard until the night train from Tampa brought out a company of State Guards, who took charge of the situation. Meanwhile, a report had been received that a negro answering the description given by the young lady, had been seen going through Socrum, and he was traced to Trenton. Deputy Sheriff Scott went to Trenton for the purpose of bringing the negro to Bartow, but at Bartow Junction a mob boarded the train and brought the prisoner, Jack Wade, to Lakeland. He was taken to the girl's home and positively identified by her. She requested that they put him to death some other way than by burning, and they took him into the woods and hung him to a tree, and riddled his body with bullets.

In April, 1909, when the amendment submitting the prohibition question to a vote of the people was pending before the Legislature, a delegation was sent to Tallahassee in behalf of the measure. Rev. J. R. Cason, Editor M. F. Hetherington and Mayor John S. Edwards composed the party. The combination of a Methodist minister, a Baptist lawyer and a Catholic editor, working in behalf of temperance, was commented on.

Lakeland's home talent theatricals were voted much better than any provided by traveling professionals, in 1909. Among bright particular stars were H. D. Mendenhall, R. E. Lufsey, Miss Manona Herron, Dr. J. F. Wilson, C. E. McMullen, etc.

In 1909, one-half section of the Drane building was erected by H. J. Drane. In 1911 the other half was added, completing the building as it now stands.

Municipal officers for 1909 were: John S. Edwards, mayor; R. E. Scipper, marshal and collector; H. L. Swatts, clerk, treasurer and assessor; J. E. Bussard, C. M. Weeks, O. M. Eaton, P. B. Haynes, G. B. Murrell, and E. O. Flood, councilmen.

A curfew law was in operation in 1909. Three blasts of the whistle at the electric light plant were blown every evening at 8:15, giving notice that all children under sixteen should be off the streets. The ordinance worked well.

An election was held on November 22, 1909, on the question of issuing bonds in the sum of $65,000 for the following purposes: $25,000 for school improvements; $18,000 for the improvement of the light and water plant; $22,000 for the extension of water mains. The bonds carried by a vote of 5 to 1. C. G. Memminger, N. A. Riggins, and C. W. Deen were chosen bond trustees.

The Sixty-Sixth Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South, was held in Lakeland the week of December 12, 1909. On that day the new Methodist church building was dedicated, Bishop Atkins officiating. The handsome new edifice had been completed a year earlier, and at the time of dedication was free from debt. Rev. J. R. Cason, who had been the pastor four years, was transferred, and he was succeeded by Rev. W. K. Piner.

Rev. G. W. Shepherd, of Kentucky, succeeded Rev. J. L. Tharp as pastor of the Baptist church in May, 1909.

Baptists bought land in East Lakeland in 1910 and erected a church building there. It was called Caddin Chapel, for the Rev. R. T. Caddin, a pioneer preacher of this section, who donated a large part of the cost of the property.

Graduates of the Lakeland High School, participating in the Commencement exercises in 1910, were: Misses Vera McRae, Mamie Walker, Edna Adams, Mary Potts, Corrie Cole, Corinne Patterson, Josephine Drane, Clara Keen; Messrs. Wallace Riggins, Clyde Trammell, Will Rogers, John Sutton, Ralph Walker, Eugene Haynes.

In October, 1910, W. K. Piner and M. F. Hetherington were appointed to represent the city in negotiations for a new railroad station, the old one being inadequate. These gentlemen met with the Railroad Commission and representatives of the Atlantic Coast Line at Tallahassee, the result being the securing of an acceptable station building. It was opened for business March 14, 1912.

In 1910, the first City Directory was published; G. W. Shepherd resigned as pastor of the Baptist church; and the Lotus Buds, an outgrowth of the Lotus Club, was organized.

On June 3, 1910, the anniversary of the birth of Jefferson Davis, the monument to the soldiers of the Confederacy was unveiled in Munn Park. This monument was erected by the members of Lakeland Chapter, U. D. C., who had worked long and earnestly to accomplish this undertaking. Several thousand people attended the ceremony. There was a parade of the Daughters, Veterans, and children, and a picnic dinner was served to the Veterans. Hon. John S. Edwards was master of ceremonies; the invocation was by Rev. J. F. Gracy, of the Cumberland Presbyterian church; the address of welcome by Rev. G. W. Shepherd, of the Baptist church; response on behalf of the Daughters by Sister Esther Carlotta,

State President of the U. D. C.; a recitation by Miss Beulah Hooks; and an oration by Hon. Park Trammell. Miss Annie Browning unveiled the monument, assisted by thirteen little girls. Mrs. A. H. Darracott presented the monument to the Veterans, and Gen. J. A. Cox responded in behalf of the Veterans, who presented the monument to the city. The response on behalf of the city was made by Mayor W. K. Jackson. There remained some debt on the monument, and payment in full was completed in March, 1912.

Lakeland's first Chautauqua was held under the auspices of C. Rucker Adams, February 12-24, 1911. The Chautauqua was an annual institution for several years.

Rev. W. M. Boswell died while on a visit to Elbridge, New York, September 10, 1911, following a stroke of apoplexy. He was long one of Lakeland's leading citizens, particularly active in the educational interests of the county, which, as chairman of the school board, he efficiently directed.

Municipal officers elected for 1912 were: S. L. A. Clonts, mayor; W. P. Pillans, P. B. Haynes, M. G. Munn and G. E. Southard, councilmen.

Illinois day was celebrated in Munn Park on February 5, 1912, the first "State day" observed in Lakeland. Over 200 ex-residents of Illinois, and visitors from the State, were present. W. F. Hallam, Mrs. William Steitz, Mayor S. L. A. Clonts, H. J. Drane, M. F. Hetherington and John F. Cox made addresses. The Citizens' Band, a fine musical organization of the time, furnished the music. Illinois Day was a pleasant annual occasion for several years thereafter.

Free mail delivery was inaugurated May 1, 1912, with two carriers and one substitute.

The work of surveying the streets for sewerage began in March, 1912. J. N. Hazelhurst, of Atlanta, was the engineer in charge. The work of installing the sewerage system was completed during the following year.

An ordinance was passed in March, 1912, requiring the A. C. L. railway to erect gates at crossings at Kentucky avenue and Florida avenue.

"Uncle Henry" was doing some very interesting writing for the *Lakeland Evening Telegram* in 1912 and later. "Uncle Henry" was Mrs. William Steitz.

The Auditorium, built by the Chautauqua Association, was erected at the head of Main street, overlooking Lake Mirror, in 1912. It was the largest in the State, seating 1,700 people, and was the scene of many notable gatherings, during the dozen or more years of its existence. It was opened on November 6, 1912, an address by H. J. Drane preceding the theatrical performance. The property was eventually bought by the city, and the building was torn down to make way for the new Civic Center.

Lakeland Methodists built a church in one day, June 27, 1912. It poured rain that day, but this did not dampen the ardor of the workers and the building was completed. Bishop H. C. Morrison, of Leesburg, drove the first nail at 6:05 in the morning and conducted services in the church at night. The building was on the site of the present College Heights Methodist church. Mrs. W. C. Norvell, Mrs. W. Fiske Johnson and Miss May Tomlinson each drove one of the first six nails.

The first mail boxes—thirteen in number—were installed on the streets of Lakeland June 17, 1912.

The Georgia-Florida Land Co. bought the Skipper grove, on the south side of Lake Morton, comprising 13 acres, for $30,000 in June, 1912. Eight years previous it had changed hands for $5,000. The land was subdivided, and is now the site of numerous handsome homes, around which are many of the fine citrus trees of the old grove.

Ten papers were being published in Polk County in 1912, and five of them were issued from the press of the *Lakeland Evening Telegram.* In addition to these, two State papers—the *Florida Christian Advocate* and the *Florida Baptist Witness*—were also printed by the *Lakeland Evening Telegram.*

J. L. Skipper let the contract for a three-story brick building on Main street, the lower floor of which had been leased to the government as a postoffice. The old frame building, which had been used as a postoffice, and which was one of the city's oldest landmarks, was removed to North Lakeland, and converted into a store building. The postoffice was opened in the new building, January 29, 1913.

Jesse Keen, a resident for 49 years, who had recently celebrated his golden wedding, died November 5, 1912. Mrs. Keen is still a resident of Lakeland.

Work on laying brick on the streets was begun in 1913. The first brick was laid in front of where the Tremont hotel then stood—the site is occupied by the Terrace now—at 8:30 on Friday morning, March 21. A million bricks were laid, the business streets being paved with brick, and some residence streets with asphalt.

The Lakeland Telephone Exchange had grown in 1913 to the extent that eight operators were employed. Six years earlier one operator—Miss Lee Orion Ormsby—attended to the business.

Congress appropriated $75,000 for a postoffice building in February, 1913. A site was accepted by the government in February, 1915. The building was erected in 1917.

The old Methodist parsonage was sold to C. A. Cook for $400 cash, and contract for a new parsonage was let February 25, 1913.

A motorcade of Lakeland boosters set out on a friendly invasion of Tampa on February 26, 1913. Practically every car then in Lakeland was pressed into service, forty machines being in the motorcade. The Lakeland people were met at Six-Mile Creek by a delegation of Tampa citizens, and the visitors were entertained at luncheon. There was much oratory and good feeling.

The Lutherans worshipped in their new brick church building for the first time July 14, 1912. Rev. H. J. Mathias was pastor.

Chas. M. Jones became the principal of the Lakeland schools in the fall of 1912, and for ten years ably conducted the school affairs of the city.

In September, 1912, G. H. Pantley and other citizens secured a right-of-way whereby it was possible to extend Rose street from Kentucky avenue to the city limits. M. W. Rogers, for several years prior to this, had cultivated a fine strawberry field and truck patch on the north side of Lake Mirror, between the railroad and the lake.

Joe LeVay made a trip to New York in his Cadillac car, with T. E. Burdette, Howard Gray and Olin Chiles, in the summer of 1912. He was on the road 10 days, which was considered a remarkably good record.

The road between Lakeland and Auburndale was impassable and it required detours that made it necessary to travel about 40 miles to get from one of these places to the other.

The following buildings were put up in 1912: a new A. C. L. passenger station; Southern Express Company building; Chautauqua auditorium; Lakeland Ice & Refrigerating plant; Smith Hardin building; Deen & Bryant building; Gentry-Futch building; Lakeland Highlands Club House; Citrus Exchange building; Stephens Apartments, and others.

In 1912, the Myrtle Street Methodist church was built; the Van Huss Opera House was moved to Main street and New York avenue, to make room for the new Van Huss building; sidewalks were ordered to be put down on a number of streets—there were practically none at the time outside of the business section; Miss Julietta Patterson was chosen Sponsor for the Florida Division U. D. C., for the Lake City Reunion; the city limits were extended one-fourth mile on the north, east and west sides, and one-half mile on the south; and the Baptists of Florida held their State convention, opening December 10.

Members of the Lakeland Board of Trade set out on a "pathfinding expedition" to locate a passable road to St. Petersburg, one day in March, 1913. They reported a trip from Lakeland to St. Petersburg "feasible."

The National Hardware Dealers' Association visited Lakeland March 22, 1913. There were representatives from many States. They were given an automobile ride around Lake Hollingsworth, and were served liberally with strawberries, cake and coffee in the Park. W. K. Jackson was secretary of the National organization, and was responsible for their visit to Lakeland.

The first troop of Boy Scouts was organized in the office of Judge Kelsey Blanton on the night of June 4, 1913. Judge Blanton performed the duties of Scout Master for a considerable period.

School bonds in the amount of $50,000 were voted July 5, 1913, by a majority of 6 to 1. This bond issue provided an addition to the existing school on Lake Wire, and for the purchase of a site on Lake Morton, and the erection of a school building thereon.

In October, 1913, H. L. Swatts, who had long been chief of the Fire Department, was succeeded by Joseph LeVay. A banquet was given by the fire company to the retiring and incoming Chiefs, and Mr. Swatts was presented with a handsome Morris chair.

A change from the aldermanic to the commission form of government was effected in October, 1913. The Commissioners elected, the first under the new form of government, were: O. M. Eaton, J. E. Bussard, Guy W. Toph, E. C. Flanagan and H. D. Mendenhall.

The Hotel Kibler (now the Thelma) opened November 10, 1913. It was built by A. B. and D. B. Kibler at a cost of $125,000.

J. L. Skipper resigned as postmaster in November, 1913, after serving nearly sixteen years. He was succeeded by R. O. Cresap, who was appointed March 7th, following.

Lakeland citizens turned out and did work on the county roads for one day, November 21, 1913, in recognition of a proclamation of Governor Trammell, calling on men of all avocations and conditions to make this gesture for the purpose of awakening good roads sentiment. The Governor, himself, came to his home town and set an excellent example by wielding the shovel.

The first Elks' Minstrel show was held December 2, 1913. O. M. Eaton was interlocutor, and C. H. Barr directed the whole affair.

There was a K. K. K. organization in Lakeland in 1913, but no on objected to it. It was composed of the younger society set, and was the "Kwit'yer Knockin' Klub."

Among buildings erected in 1913 were the Hotel Kibler, the Skipper building; the Van Huss building; new City Hall; the Dickson building; the Kimbrough building; the Bassett building; the Elliston building; the *Evening Telegram* building; the Hendrix building; the Combee building; A. C. L. freight station and sheds; and many smaller buildings and residences. In addition, street paving to the amount of $225,000, and $60,000 worth of sewerage, were completed.

In 1913, the State Federation of Labor held its convention in Lakeland, beginning January 14; a LaFrance fire engine was purchased; in February, Hon. W. J. Bryan was a Chautauqua attraction; the Twentieth Annual Conference and Camp Meeting of Seventh Day Adventists of Florida held a 10 days' session, beginning October 30th; telephone wires were put underground; H. J. Drane was president of the State Senate; John S. Edwards was appointed a member of the State Tax Commission by Governor Trammell; stores closed Thursday afternoons that summer, for the first time; a new city hall was completed; the *Lakeland Evening Telegram* was one of only five papers in Florida receiving Associated Press service; W. E. Pugh was pastor of the Lutheran church, and Richard Bolton was the Episcopal rector; and Misses Mabel Drane and Olive Summerlin made a tour of European countries.

On January 1, 1914, Lakeland celebrated her thirtieth anniversary. Thousands witnessed the parade, many blocks in length, which was the most brilliant pageant in the city's history. Miss Dora Bonacker was Queen of the Carnival, and Ossian W. Drane was King. Miss Bonacker's attendants were Misses Katherine Cowdery, Mabel Drane, Ruth Skipper, Emma Robison and Margaret Southard. The King's attendants were: Frank Thompson, Ray Weeks, William Sammon, Truby O'Steen, and J. P. Getzen. A feature of the parade was an ox team driven by L. T. Keen, escorted by a number of cowboys, members of the Keen, Combee, Costine and Robson families. G. H. Alfield was marshal of the day; Dr. W. S. Irvin, B. S. Rivers and J. Neilsen Lange, assistant marshals. A. J. Holworthy was mainly responsible for the success of the celebration.

In January, 1914, All Saints Episcopal church was made an independent parish, instead of an organized mission dependent on the Bishop.

Lakeland's white way was turned on for the first time on the night of February 7, 1914. The Chamber of Commerce, and particularly its secretary, A. J. Holworthy, had been working on this proposition for exactly a year, overcoming much opposition and many objections. There were 63 standards, five lights to each.

A bond issue for $165,000 was voted October 7, 1914. Of this amount $130,000 was for enlargement of the light and water distribution system; $20,000 for improvement and enlargement of the Fire Department, and $15,000 for building and equipping Morrell Memorial hospital. J. F. Council, L. F. Henley and N. A. Riggins were elected bond trustees.

The Twenty-Fourth Reunion United Confederate Veterans was held in Lakeland the week of November 1, 1914. J. D. Richardson, a veteran, who lived in the vicinity of Griffin, dropped dead while walking from town to his home. A "Welcome" arch was erected on the occasion of this Reunion, its location spanning Kentucky avenue, midway between Main and Rose street. It was electrically lighted, and for some years it was maintained, and formed a hospitable gesture that brought many expressions of appreciation from visitors.

Several important conventions assembled in Lakeland in 1914. The Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of Florida held its deliberations April 21st, the Rebekahs also being in session at the same time; the Florida Bankers' Association convened April 24, and at a banquet held the night of April 27, Vice President Thos. R. Marshall was the principal speaker; the Twentieth Annual Session of Women's Clubs was held November 17-20; and the Florida Educational Association convened December 29, for a two days' session.

In July, 1914, Rev. Wallace Wear was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist church, and Rev. F. H. Callahan became pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

W. S. Irvin assumed the office of city commissioner, January 2, 1915, to fill the place of J. E. Bussard, resigned.

A franchise had been granted the Lakeland Gas Co. on September 7, 1914. Work was begun on the plant January 4, 1915; service was inaugurated—the gas turned into the mains for the first time—July 15, 1915.

Col. J. H. A. Bruce, who for many years conducted the Tremont hotel, when that hostelry was considered one of the best in Florida, died February 15, 1915, aged 81.

Lakeland participated in the Gasparilla celebration February 16, 1915. Two floats had been prepared, but the larger got stuck in the road between Lakeland and Tampa, and never reached its destination. The delay prevented Lakeland from taking its proper place in the parade; but the Lakeland Elks, in striking regalia, headed by the Lakeland Military Band, with the other float carrying nine beautiful Lakeland girls, staged an independent parade through the streets of Tampa, which attracted more attention than if things had gone in accordance with the original program. Especially was this the case when the main procession was met, and the bystanders were given the spectacle of a parade going and coming. The young ladies on the float, who tossed oranges and mammoth strawberries to the throngs as they passed, were Misses Mary Groover, Mary McKay, Myrtle McRae, Mildred Hampton, Mary Owen, Frances Straw, Brunnelle Swindell, Edith Tomlinson and Reva Fletcher.

A more ambitious Polk County Fair than had hitherto been attempted, was held at Lakeland the week beginning February 22, 1915. It was opened with

impressive ceremonies, Governor Park Trammell delivering the opening address. There was a fine live stock exhibit, splendid agricultural displays, and the Woman's department and the Educational department were especially fine. The Fair was held in the ball park in the northern part of the city.

The Louisville Colonels had their training quarters in Lakeland in March, 1915. Their expenses, etc., were guaranteed by a number of the citizens, but there was unusually unfavorable weather that season, and the backers of the project were called upon to put up a 60 per cent deficit.

There was a great revival of the Chamber of Commerce in April, 1915. Three hundred members were secured, and the organization placed on a substantial financial basis.

John F. Cox was elected commissioner in June, 1915, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of H. D. Mendenhall.

A new site for the light and water plant—where the latter now stands—was purchased in 1915.

The "Membership Council" of the Chamber of Commerce was the forerunner of the luncheon clubs in Lakeland. It held weekly luncheons, at which matters for the benefit of the city were discussed. E. H. Youngs was first chairman, and later for some years these meetings were presided over by M. F. Hetherington with A. J. Holworthy as secretary.

The American State Bank consolidated with the First National July 6, 1915.

In 1915, Francis Beach, Lakeland's first amusement enterprise of the kind, was opened; A. H. De Vane and A. B. Hull purchased the State Bank of Lakeland; W. B. Hendrix, father of T. B. Hendrix, died December 16, aged 100 years; Dixieland Methodist church was dedicated by Rev. I. C. Jenkins, October 24th; the corner stone for an addition to the First Baptist church was laid November 10; L. D. Lowe became pastor of the Methodist church, and C. I. Stacy, of the Presbyterian church in December.

Lakeland's first tourist headquarters were opened January 27, 1916, though for a season or two a portion of the upper floor of the Auditorium building had been used for this purpose. The new quarters were in the Van Huss Building in the rooms now occupied by the Western Union Company.

There had been two voting precincts in Lakeland. A third—No. 36—was created in February, 1916.

R. T. Caddin, aged 75, died March 21, 1916. He was one of the pioneer preachers of this section.

In 1916, the Peoples' State Bank opened with W. T. Overstreet as president, and John L. Fouts as vice-president; the First National Bank was remodeled and enlarged; the South Florida Chamber of Commerce, with 500 delegates, convened in Lakeland in May; the new Light and Water building was erected; and Lakeland furnished the government with a United States Senator—Hon. Park Trammell—and a Congressman, Hon. H. J. Drane.

John S. Edwards, who had been serving as a member of the Florida Tax Commission, resigned in 1917, to accept appointment as Circuit Judge, Hon. F. A. Whitney having resigned.

Lakeland's first golf course was opened January 1, 1917. About 300 persons enjoyed a picnic on Scott Lake as guests of the Golf Club. A comfortable Club House had been erected and was opened on this occasion. W. F. Hallam was promoter of the project, and was assisted by a number of Lakeland citizens, who took stock in the enterprise. It flourished awhile, but war conditions, and the unfortunate death of Mr. Hallam, caused the course to fall into disuse.

Theodore Roosevelt spoke on the war situation in the Park, April 1, 1917. He was heard by a very large audience.

In 1917 the Gamewell Fire Alarm system was installed in the city; wire-tappers paid Lakeland their first visit; the Knights of Pythias held their convention here in March; and Dr. L. F. Henley, beloved physician and long-time resident, died December 28th.

Fire almost completely destroyed the A. C. L. passenger station February 1, 1918. Loss about $25,000. It was rebuilt, a second story being added to the plans of the original building. The station was reopened January 31, 1919.

City Commissioners for 1918 were: E. C. Flanagan, O. J. Pope, John M. Keen, Frank Thompson, and T. B. O'Steen.

Lakeland lost her first soldier when W. K. Tillis died in hospital at Camp Wheeler, January 12, 1918. The stores closed for the funeral, and he was given a military burial by the Home Guards.

Wire-tappers were busy in the winter of 1918, and some tourists were victimized. They operated also in the winter of 1919.

A Rotary Club was organized February 18, 1918, when, at its first meeting, nine directors were elected, who, in turn, elected officers. Directors were: C. M. Clayton, O. M. Eaton, W. W. Chase, C. E. Todd, F. T. Benford, W. S. Moore, C. O. Pinch, A. J. Holworthy and M. F. Hetherington. Officers chosen were: President, W. W. Chase; vice-president, M. F. Hetherington; secretary, A. J. Holworthy; treasurer, C. M. Clayton; sergeant-at-arms, E. G. Parcell. It was said that Lakeland was the smallest city in the country to have a Rotary Club. The first function held in the Elks' Home—before even it was formally opened—was the institution of the Rotary Club by the Rotarians of Tampa, on the night of March 20, 1918. Secretary of Agriculture David F. Houston was one of several distinguished guests on this occasion.

Paul Gardner, one of the best known and most popular men of the section, dropped dead at his home on Banana Lake, near Lakeland, on June 11, 1918.

Lakeland contributed her share of sacrifice on the altar of patriotism in 1918. Hugh Sims, 17, was drowned while in service, at Key West, and was buried at Lakeland, with military honors, August 21; Bert Lane went down on the U. S. ship Tampa, which was sunk by a torpedo in foreign waters, in September; L. W. Yarnall, Jr., was another hero killed in action October 20; Woodson Williams died while in service in the Navy, and was given a military funeral in Lakeland, October 27; William E. Ferreand was also a Lakeland soldier killed in France. The latter's funeral took place July 20, 1921.

Sunday, October 13, 1918, the churches were closed for the first time in the history of the city, as a preventive measure against Spanish influenza. Public

gatherings of all kinds were discouraged during this period, the theaters being closed for some time.

In 1918, George Lizotte was conducting the Elks' Club; Rev. Wallace Wear resigned as pastor of the First Baptist church to accept a pastorate at Cordele, Georgia; the First National Bank and the Peoples' State Bank consolidated, in August; the Florida Methodist Publishing Co. dedicated its new building, August 21; the High School Cadets were drilling under instruction of Principal C. M. Jones; over 1,000 Shriners met and had a big time in Lakeland, November 21; the asphalt drive around Lake Morton was completed in December; the most interesting news in the papers was letters from the boys who had gone across; and the First National Bank's earnings were 20 per cent.

The Presbyterians began a new church building early in 1919, and, on November 2 of that year, they held their first service in the structure, a beautiful brick edifice overlooking Lake Mirror. The church was built during the able pastorate of Rev. C. I. Stacy.

In the City Primary held July 8, 1919, Frank Thompson was elected Mayor-Commissioner; and O. J. Pope, S. J. Roland, L. P. Broadfield and Truby O'Steen, commissioners. A. C. Armistead was treasurer; H. L. Swatts, clerk, and A. R. Carver, municipal judge.

In 1919, the boys who had gone to war were being welcomed back home; H. B. Carter bought the Hotel Kibler, which was later named the Thelma; and a curfew ordinance was passed, but indifferently enforced.

On the night of March 28, 1920, Lakeland had a destructive fire, losses sustained aggregating $200,000. Fire started outside the dry kiln of the Lakeland Manufacturing Company, and totally destroyed the large plant, also the Weaver laundry, Peacock building, and business houses belonging to N. A. Riggins, sweeping the entire block between the railroad and Main street, and between Florida and Missouri avenues, except the building then occupied by the Todd Hardware Company, which was not seriously damaged. All were rebuilt on a more substantial scale, particularly the plant of the Lakeland Manufacturing Company.

W. F. Hallam was drowned while bathing in the surf at St. Petersburg Beach, May 29, 1920. He was one of the premier developers of this section, having in 1910 purchased 13,000 acres of land a short distance south of Lakeland, and created the magnificent Lakeland Highlands development, with its fine club house, numerous homes, and several thousand acres of fine grove. Among the builders of Lakeland, he is entitled to a place in the first rank.

The Central State Bank was organized in July, 1920. Officers were: A. F. Pickard, president; C. I. Dwiggins, first vice-president; E. N. Good, second vice-president; H. C. Dwiggins, cashier. It opened for business October 2, 1920.

Rev. M. J. Farley was assigned to the Catholic church as pastor in December, and a reception was tendered him in the Woman's Club building, on the evening of the 15th, by the members of the congregation. He was the first resident pastor of the church, of which he is still in charge.

Among pioneer residents who died in 1920 were: Dr. J. A. Hart, February 10, a resident for nearly forty years; E. R. Trammell, one of the three men who

named the city, on May 19; and Mrs. W. M. Boswell, mother of Mrs. H. J. Drane, December 6.

The Lakeland Country Club was organized in July, 1921. The Club House and Golf course on Lake Parker were opened in October, 1923.

The primaries of July, 1921, resulted in the election of the following: Mayor, H. C. Petteway; assessor, A. C. Armistead; municipal judge, J. D. Allen; clerk, H. L. Swatts; commissioners, E. J. Bowyer, S. J. Roland, L. P. Broadfield, Wm. Steitz.

A movement to build a brick church in Dixieland was inaugurated by members of the Baptist faith in 1921. This resulted in the splendid Southside Baptist church, the first service in which was held on Sunday, March 9, 1924. The structure cost about $100,000. Rev. P. C. Barkley was pastor.

The Polk County Trust Company opened for business in February, 1921. A. H. DeVane was president, T. L. Wilson and E. L. Mack, vice-presidents; J. L. Davis, secretary-treasurer; C. D. Judson, trust officer.

The Legislature of 1921 passed a bill authorizing the lowering of the water level of Lake Parker two feet, draining a large area of submerged lands. In December, 1922, Thorpe Bros., of Minneapolis, and local associates, Edwin Spencer and L. M. Futch, began the lowering of the water levels of Lake Parker and Lake Boney, preparatory to developing Shore Acres.

The corner-stone of the first building of the Southern College group was laid May 25, 1922. Dr. R. H. Alderman, president of the college, was the principal speaker.

In 1921, the walks in Munn Park were paved; G. E. Everett, of Kentucky, took charge of the Lakeland schools; Dr. Sylvester was making quite a success growing grapes; the Wilsonian apartment house was erected on Lake Morton; Lakeland was building a house every day; George Haldeman was thrilling the people with air stunts.

A. J. Holworthy died February 1, 1922. For ten years prior to June, 1921, he had been secretary and manager of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce. During all that time—a period of great growth and development—there was no forward movement in which he was not a most active agent. Overwork in behalf of the community good caused a physical breakdown, necessitating his resignation as Chamber of Commerce secretary in June, 1921, and his death followed a few months later. In the opinion of many, he deserves to be regarded as Lakeland's most useful citizen up to that time.

A Kiwanis Club was organized February 27, 1922. A. R. Carver was president; W. J. Bolin, vice-president; Frank Sanford, secretary; E. N. Good, treasurer; W. O. Lemasters, trustee. The charter was presented Friday night, April 21, by Edward C. Branch, governor of the Florida-Alabama district.

A new charter, establishing the commissioner-manager form of city government, was adopted at an election held August 1, 1922. The charter board was composed of the following: J. F. Council, J. C. Owens, Chas. I. Dwiggins, John F. Cox, J. F. Wilson, O. C. Lanphear, W. W. Chase, and L. W. Bloom. The first election under the new charter was held September 4, resulting in the choice of

J. W. Buchanan, Jr., D. C. Boswell and J. T. Hodges as commissioners. J. T. Hodges was made chairman, or mayor-commissioner, and he also served as temporary city manager, pending the appointment of Anton Schneider, who was selected early, but who was at the time city manager of Bartow, and was unable to take up his Lakeland duties until November 1st. J. L. Davis was made city clerk and auditor.

The contract for a $30,000 Methodist Sunday School building was let in September, 1922. The building, consisting of 35 class rooms and a gymnasium, was opened for use February 9, 1923.

Ossian Wright Drane, son of Hon. H. J. Drane, and the first male child born in Lakeland, died December 29, 1922, as a result of illness contracted while in service in the World War. He was buried with military honors.

On July 1, 1922, in connection with a general strike, the employees of the A. C. L. shops in Lakeland quit work. The strike lasted several weeks. There were some disorders.

The Lakeland postoffice became a first-class office July 2, 1922.

On August 21, 1923, a bond issue of $450,000 was voted for extension of light and water service, and refunding earnings of power plant; also an item of $25,000 for the purchase of a library site.

Miss Mary Weaver represented Lakeland in the Beauty Pageant at Atlantic City in September, 1923.

C. M. Clayton died December 31, 1923. He was long one of Lakeland's most prominent bankers.

In 1923, a Buyers' Platform was provided by the city, opening January 13; J. Bunyan Smith was elected commissioner, J. T. Hodges, retiring; the Christian Scientists held services in their own church building for the first time on Sunday, December 9; and on December 28, contracts were let for 32 miles of street paving to cost $672,488, Stidham & Hughes, of Bartow, being the successful bidder.

R. H. Naylor was appointed postmaster in January, 1924.

Episcopalians erected a handsome new church building, which was used for the first time February 24, 1924, though not entirely finished. It was dedicated Sunday, March 9, 1924, Bishop Cameron Mann officiating, assisted by the Rector, Rev. G. I. Hiller, and a former Rector, Rev. W. B. Curtis. Up to that time the congregation had worshipped in a small wooden building, older than the city of Lakeland, it having been built by the English people who established the town of Acton, and moved from that place to Lakeland when Acton was abandoned.

John F. Cox, long prominent in business and civic life of Lakeland, died suddenly February 7, 1924. He had been mayor several times, and was one of the earliest and most active real estate developers of the city. In recognition of his pioneering in the development of the Lake Parker section, a grammar school, just erected on Lakeland Hills Boulevard, has been named the John F. Cox school.

The first meeting of the Exchange Club was held on the evening of April 17, 1924, at the Thelma hotel. On the night of August 20, the charter was presented to the club by L. L. Thrower, of Tampa, acting for the national secretary. The

officers of the club were: T. S. Trantham, president; G. E. Childers, vice-president; Paul M. Henderson, secretary.

The Cleveland baseball club—the "Indians"—had their training quarters in Lakeland in the spring of 1924, returning the springs of 1925, 1926, and 1927.

On June 10, 1924, Lakeland voted a bond issue of $1,069,000, as follows: Municipal hospital for white patients, $300,000; site for city hall and auditorium, (Munn property) $100,000; athletic field and equipment, $87,000; city library, $75,000; fire station, north side, $25,000; municipal abattoir, $40,000; hospital for colored patients, $25,000; stockade for prisoners, $20,000; combination jail and central fire station, $40,000; incinerator, $20,000; improvement of lake shores, etc., $17,000; improvement Roselawn cemetery, $15,000; comfort station in Munn Park, $10,000; fire station south side, $20,000; city hall and auditorium, $275,000.

Miss Margaret Swindell was chosen to represent Lakeland at the Beauty Pageant in Atlantic City, in September, 1924.

T. J. Appleyard resigned as secretary of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce in August, 1924, and D. Hodson Lewis, of Lockport, N. Y., was employed as secretary-manager, assuming his duties in October.

The Lakeland Terrace Hotel was the outgrowth of Chamber of Commerce activities. Agitation of a new hotel resulted in the purchase of a site in January, 1923. The Adair Realty Co. took over the project and work was started in October. The hotel opened Monday, October 20, 1924.

Largely through the efforts of T. J. Appleyard, F. H. Callahan and J. E. Melton, H. A. Stahl, of Cleveland, Ohio, and his associates, became interested in Lakeland, and in October, 1924, they purchased several hundred acres of land on the south side of Lake Hollingsworth and extending to Lakeland Highlands. The beautiful development known as Cleveland Heights resulted. Numerous high-grade homes were built, a splendid 18-hole golf course was created, and a fine club house was erected, which has been the center of many social and civic activities.

H. B. Carter died at Ocala, November 29, 1924, as the result of an automobile accident occurring while he was en route to that city. He was for many years one of Lakeland's leading citizens.

The Civitan Club received its charter December 11, 1924. Officers were: A. H. DeVane, president; T. F. Sheridan, secretary, and C. F. O'Doniel, treasurer.

On December 30, 1924, the city limits which had included four square miles, were extended to include thirty square miles.

"Uncle Wes" McRae, beloved citizen since early days of the community, died January 9, 1925, aged 64.

The Pioneer Club, later the Business and Professional Women's Club, held its first luncheon meeting March 18, 1925. On April 3 organization was effected by the election of Mrs. A. N. Paddock, president; Mrs. A. Callan, vice-president; Mrs. Eva Spiva, secretary, and Mrs. J. W. Kutrow, treasurer.

Harry Brown was made Grand Commander Knights Templar State of Florida, at the meeting held at Tampa, March 19, 1925.

On April 25, 1925, the Chamber of Commerce closed a three-day drive, resulting in securing $108,075, representing 4,323 memberships.

The State Convention of the Order of Elks was held in Lakeland, April 29, 1925. Paul M. Henderson, of Lakeland, was elected State President.

Dr. Ludd Spivey became president of Southern College, June 5, 1925.

The Cumberland Presbyterian church, erected at a cost of $75,000, was dedicated November 1, 1925. Rev. S. H. Eshman delivered the dedicatory sermon.

Rev. C. A. Raymond was installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian church November 23, 1925, Rev. C. I. Stacy, who had served the church for several years, having resigned in January.

S. M. Stephens, pioneer resident, died November 19, 1925, aged 62.

The corner-stone of the First Christian church was laid August 22, 1925, the parsonage having already been built. The building was dedicated in May, 1926, Rev. P. H. Mears being the pastor. The structure cost about $65,000.

The Pionette Club was organized March 17, 1926, as an outgrowth of the Business and Professional Women's Club, twenty young ladies having been invited as guests of the latter organization on the date mentioned. Miss Vesta Todd was the first president; Miss Reva Fletcher, vice-president; Miss Roberta Beauchamp, secretary; Miss Elma Robson, treasurer.

The congregation of the Church of Christ completed a church building in June, 1926. The structure with furnishings cost about $20,000. Rev. T. B. Thompson was pastor at the time.

Anton Schneider resigned as City Manager April 30, 1927. During his administration the greater part of the city's extensive program of improvements was originated, and much of it completed. He was succeeded by D. B. Kibler, who held the position for a year, resigning in April, 1928, because of impaired health. J. F. Council has since filled the position of City Manager.

In 1925 there was much expansion of public improvements. Many miles of paving were provided, a group of fine municipal buildings, including the magnificent hospital, were erected; public utilities were largely extended. This program overlapped into 1926, and is only at this time (1928) wholly completed. The same comment may also be applied to individual activities. Building permits ran into the millions. Among buildings erected during the period was the ten-story Marble Arcade; the Florida Hotel; the Peninsular Telephone building; the Success Furniture Co. building; the Oates-Corley building; many lesser business structures, and hundreds of residences, many of them of a very high type.

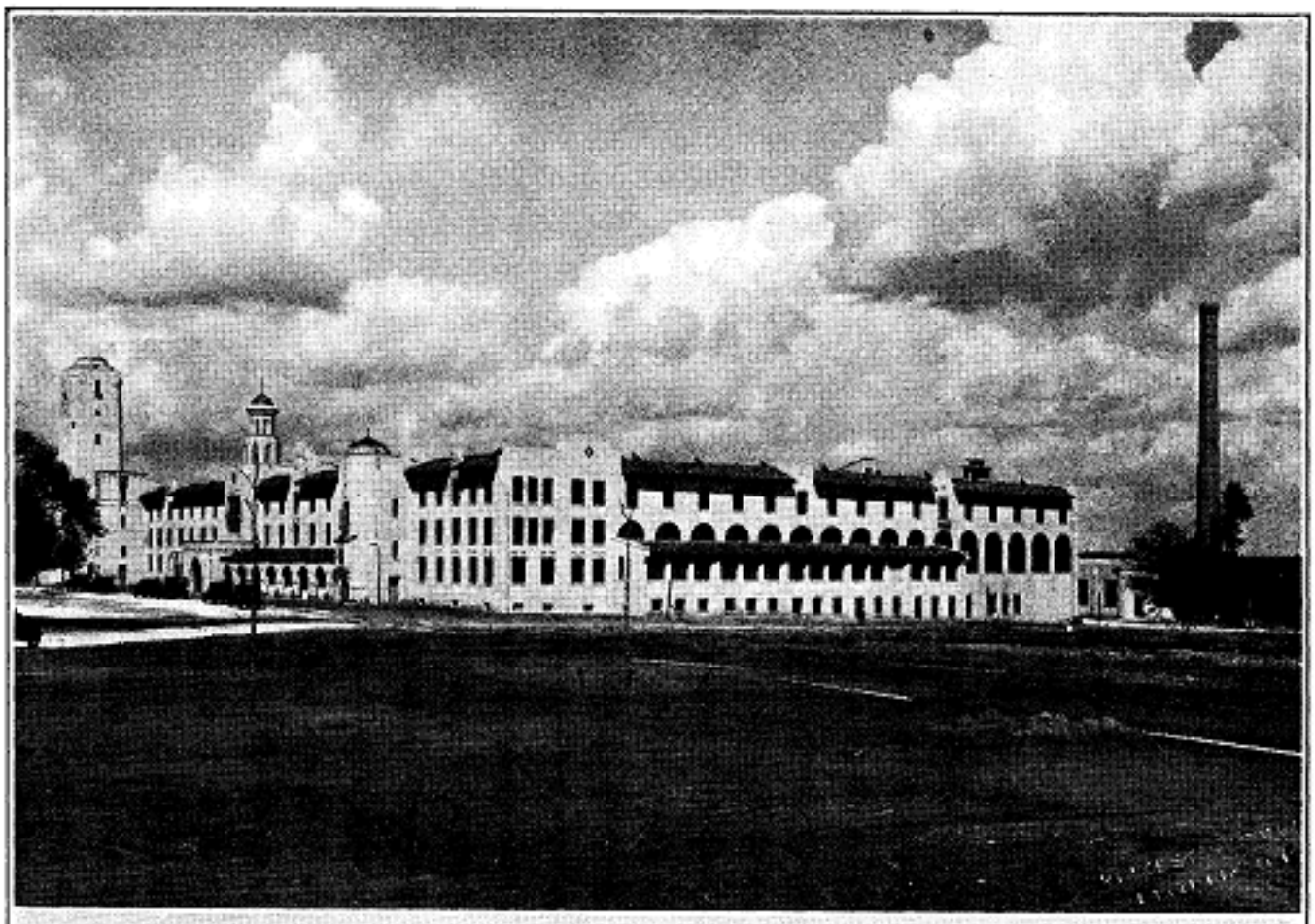
During the years 1924-25, Lakeland, like practically all the communities in the State, was affected by what is known as the Florida boom. Previous to that time, growth had been steady and substantial; but with the influx of great numbers of people, mostly intent upon speculative operations, a hectic condition resulted, which affected old residents as well as newcomers. Property was bought and sold without consideration of actual values, but with the sole idea of speedy re-sales at a profit. The sudden increase of population strained the capacity of public utilities, housing facilities, etc., and heavy bond issues were floated to make provision for the abnormal demands. Public improvements on a large scale were launched; and the building program, already active, was speeded up until an average of three buildings, or even more, were completed every 24 hours. In the latter part of

1925 a slowing up in the real estate market was noted, and early in 1926 it became evident that the era of wild speculation had become a thing of the past. The sudden cessation of real estate activities was at once reflected on all lines of business, and both individuals and the community as a whole, awoke to the fact that over-optimism had resulted in over-building and general over-expansion.

During the period indicated, bond issues for paving, sewerage and other public improvements ran into the millions; scores of sub-divisions, many of which had no logical reason for existence, were platted and put on the market; and many business structures and hundreds of dwellings were erected in anticipation of the demands that, in the beginning of the boom period, were imperative. Inevitably, this reaction created considerable depression; but the net result obtained is that Lakeland has improvements that make it a complete and up-to-date city, in addition to all its natural advantages, which are as outstanding now as before the boom. Irresponsible speculators, "binder boys" and fly-by-nights have disappeared. The substantial citizenry has lost none of its confidence in the city's future, and conditions are steadily tending toward the normal state of steady and permanent growth, based on real values and undisputed advantages.

Lakeland Chamber of Commerce.—Numerous attempts to maintain an efficient Board of Trade in Lakeland met with the results usual in all small communities—the movement would flare up for a while, soon to die down, and the spark of civic ambition would then be kept alive by a few patriotic citizens until fanned into flame by some new impulse. This condition obtained until 1912, when the first real organization was accomplished, and a full-time secretary employed. A. J. Holworthy was chosen for this position, and for nearly ten years he labored tirelessly and unselfishly, doing a work for community advancement the effects of which it is impossible to estimate. In 1921, failing health caused him to resign, and Thomas J. Appleyard was chosen to succeed him. Mr. Appleyard served ably and successfully for three years, and was instrumental in some noted civic accomplishments, among which may be noted the securing of the Carpenters' Home, the erection of the Terrace hotel and the initial conception of the Civic Center. He resigned to engage in other business in August, 1924, D. Hodson Lewis succeeding him, and also making an efficient and popular secretary. Mr. Lewis resigned late in 1927, and shortly thereafter Hervey W. Laird was installed in the position, and he is at this time giving splendid service to the organization and the community. Ira W. Hopper is president of the organization, and among others who have served in this connection in the past are, E. R. Bentley, E. L. Mack, C. E. Todd, W. W. Chase, H. D. Mendenhall, John F. Cox, C. O. Pinch, Dr. S. F. Smith, W. K. Jackson, John S. Edwards. The Chamber at this time is functioning smoothly and effectively, and is doing much to further the interests of the community.

Carpenters and Joiners' Home.—Announcement having been made that the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America were contemplating the establishment in Florida of a National Home for aged and disabled members, an effort was launched by the citizens, headed by the Chamber of Commerce, to secure the location of this institution at Lakeland. In July, 1923, W. L. Hutcheson, general president; Frank Duffy, national secretary; and Thomas Neale,



Upper—National Carpenters' Home Near Lakeland.
Lower—One of Southern College's Buildings, Lakeland.

national treasurer, visited Lakeland and were shown the suggested site by the committee in charge. The executive committee of the Brotherhood came to inspect the proposed location on December 3, and on December 15, announcement was made of the purchase by the Brotherhood of a tract of 1,700 acres of land just north of the city, at a price of approximately $700,000. Much credit for the successful culmination of this matter was given to J. J. Haldeman, who worked out the details and conducted the negotiations, visiting Indianapolis to confer with the organization heads.

In 1926 work on the improvements was begun, and the initial unit will be completed and dedicated on October 2, 1928, at which time the National Convention of the organization will assemble in session at the Home. This first unit will be the result of the expenditure of at least one million dollars, and will comprise the magnificent Home building proper, fully and splendidly equipped, a power house, a laundry building and equipment, a unique and beautiful water tower, etc. The present Home makes provision for 400 residents, but it is designed to serve many others, the ultimate plans being that it shall serve as the center of eighty bungalows or residences, grouped about the beautifully landscaped grounds overlooking Lake Gibson, and surrounded by hundreds of acres of orange groves, which are included in the holdings of the organization.

The Elks' Home.—Lakeland Lodge No. 1291, B. P. O. E., was organized October 24, 1912, in the hall of the Groover-Morgan building (now Buchanan's Hotel). There were 35 charter members, and the following were the first officers: Exalted Ruler, O. M. Eaton; Esteemed Leading Knight, H. D. Bassett; Esteemed Loyal Knight, O. S. Van Huss; Esteemed Lecturing Knight, H. J. Drane; Secretary, George Moore; Treasurer, T. H. Monk; Esquire, E. F. Bailey; Tyler, T. B. O'Steen; Inner Guard, E. G. Alexander; Chaplain, H. L. Swatts. The Elks' Club was incorporated in January, 1917, as the preliminary step toward building a Home. On March 28, 1917, a contract was let to Logan Bros., of Tampa, for a building to cost $35,800, in accordance with plans that had been prepared by Bonfoey & Elliott, of Tampa. The total cost, including furnishings, was about $75,000. The Elks met for the first time in the new Home on January 10, 1918. The cornerstone was laid March 29, the honor of placing the stone in position falling to Dr. F. D. Bryan, who was Exalted Ruler at the time. Assisting in the ceremony were District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler O. M. Eaton, Past Exalted Ruler M. F. Hetherington, Esteemed Leading Knight W. S. Irvin, Esteemed Loyal Knight Joseph LeVay, Esteemed Lecturing Knight A. C. Jones, Esquire T. B. O'Steen, Chaplain L. W. Yarnell, Secretary W. L. King, Acting Tyler W. J. Merrill, Inner Guard G. J. Trimble, Trustee A. J. Holworthy, and Guy Toph and J. D. Wadkins. The building was formally opened April 3, 1918. Over 2,000 persons attended, it being one of the most brilliant social events in the city's history, and the Elks' Home has ever since been a center of sociability and hospitality. The building committtee consisted of M. F. Hetherington, Chairman; W. L. King, T. B. O'Steen, F. D. Bryan, and O. M. Eaton. The Lakeland lodge of Elks had 87 of its members in World War service. It has entertained the State Convention of Florida Elks twice—in 1920 and in 1926.

Morrell Memorial Hospital.—On March 7, 1914, the will of Mrs. F. A. Morrell was made public, giving certain property on South Missouri avenue to the city for the purpose of providing a hospital to be known as Morrell Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Morrell was a lady of much charm and culture, who had made her home here for several years. To carry out the provisions of this bequest, a bond issue, voted October 7, 1914, included an item of $15,000 for building and equipping the hospital. Plans drawn by A. J. Poteet were accepted November 1, 1915; the contract for the building was let to E. C. Angell at $12,500 December 14, 1915. The corner-stone was laid February 24, 1916, and the hospital was opened for service on August 11. Organizations and individuals assisted in the purchase of furnishings and equipment. The first operation was performed August 15, 1916, by Dr. Duffy, assisted by Drs. Groover and Love. The hospital served for about ten years until the present fine Morrell Memorial hospital was completed in 1926.

Lakeland Lakes.—Lake Parker was named for Streety Parker, who formerly lived on that lake; Lake Hollingsworth also was named for an old settler who lived on its shores; Lake Hunter, for a lone camper who lived on its south shore; Lake Morton, for John P. Morton, of Louisville, Ky., who purchased the lands surrounding it in 1889; Lake Boney (incorrectly called Bonnie) for David W. Boney; Wire Lake—once called "Israel's Dish," though by whom so named or why, cannot now be learned—given its present name because of the fact that the Western Union line from Ocala to Punta Rassa followed the old "wire road," and crossed this lake; Lake Beulah, for Miss Beulah Wentz, an attractive visitor; Lake Bonnet, because of the "bonnets" or water lilies on the surface of the lake; Lake Mirror, first known as Deep Lake, then called Bushy Lake, and finally named Mirror because objects were so perfectly reflected on its waters. Lakes Gibson and Hancock were also named for old settlers, who, like Parker, Hollingsworth and Boney, were Indian fighters.

Lakeland Celebrities.—Lakeland claims at least four citizens of national prominence. Three of them being men, they will probably not object to first place in the group being accorded to Miss Ruth Elder, who on October 11 and 12, 1927, thrilled the world with her "glorious failure" in attempting to fly across the Atlantic. Her co-pilot in the attempt, George W. Haldeman, reared in Lakeland, is an outstanding figure in the world of aviation. Senator Park Trammell, former Governor of Florida, now United States Senator, and Hon. H. J. Drane, now entering upon his seventh term as representative in Congress from the First Florida district, are men of high standing in the Nation's councils.

Woman's Clubs.—The first woman's club in Lakeland seems to have been the Lotus Club, established in 1900, though there were some literary and social groups that came and went prior to that time. The Lotus Club, however, seems to have been active for more than a decade. The original members were Mrs. E. J. Bowyer, Mrs. C. M. Marsh, Mrs. Alice Saunders, Mrs. L. W. Cowdery, Mrs. W. R. Groover and Mrs. A. B. Lovell. There is a record in 1908 of the presidency of Mrs. Morris G. Munn, other members at that time being Mrs. A. B. Brown, Mrs. A. R. Bond, Mrs. L. W. Cowdery, Mrs. W. R. Groover, Mrs. A. B. Lovell, Mrs. McKay, Mrs. Orme, Mrs. George M. Wright, Mrs. Park Trammell,

Mrs. N. A. Riggins, Mrs. P. H. Fuller, Mrs. H. J. Drane. Other names found on the membership roll at various times were those of Mrs. W. M. Boswell, Mrs. Sage and Mrs. W. K. Jackson.

The present Woman's Club was organized March 14, 1912, when fourteen ladies met at the home of Mrs. S. T. Fletcher. Mrs. Earl May was chosen president; Mrs. R. R. Sullivan, secretary; Miss Julia Etta Patterson, treasurer. Other members at this initial meeting were Mrs. Carl Brush, Mrs. H. D. Mendenhall, Mrs. H. C. Stevens, Mrs. F. E. Ohlinger, Mrs. C. A. Cole, Mrs. S. T. Fletcher, Miss Annie Browning, Mrs. G. E. Southard, Mrs. John Patterson, Mrs. W. D. Edwards. The Club was federated in 1912; affiliated with the county federation in 1921, and with the General Federation in 1924. It was hostess to the State Convention of Woman's Clubs in 1914, and sponsored the Congress of Woman's Clubs at the Polk County Fair in 1925. The Club's motto is: "In great things Unity; in small things, Liberty; in all things, Charity." The Club colors are green and gold. The Club has done much good work for community betterment, and for years it maintained the first and only library in the city serving the public.

On May 30, 1923, the Club purchased a lot overlooking Lake Morton at a cost of $4,000. The lot was paid for during the two years of Mrs. Maude Gardner's presidency. In 1927 it was decided to build a Club House. Work was begun in July of that year, and the corner-stone was laid on August 16. The building was ready for use in the fall of 1927, being formally dedicated March 14, 1928. The cost of the structure was $13,000. It was built during the incumbency as president of Mrs. Joshua Graham.

Those who have served the organization as presidents are Mrs. E. C. May, Mrs. E. C. Angell, Mrs. J. W. Scarr, Mrs. Geo. M. Wright, Mrs. G. E. Southard, Mrs. Guy W. Toph, Mrs. W. W. Chase, Mrs. A. W. Krause, Mrs. W. D. Edwards, Mrs. Eleanor Allyn, Mrs. S. E. Jones, Mrs. Paul Gardner, Mrs. W. B. Sewell, Mrs. Joshua Graham, Mrs. W. J. DeLoach.

The Sorosis Club was organized March 27, 1922, Mrs. George M. Wright being the founder. Mrs. William Steitz was the first president; Mrs. W. F. Sneed, vice-president; Mrs. N. A. Riggins, secretary; Mrs. E. J. Bowyer, treasurer. Other charter members were Mrs. L. W. Cowdery, Mrs. George M. Wright, Mrs. W. S. Irvin, Mrs. J. B. Hannah, Miss Helen Cochrane, Mrs. Estelle Whitted, Mrs. George Peterkin, Mrs. W. D. Edwards. The club was affiliated with the Polk County Federation June 14, 1922.

On March 14, 1928, the Club dedicated its magnificent new Club House, erected at a total cost, including furnishings, of $75,000.

Those who have served the Club in the capacity of president are Mrs. William Steitz, Mrs. E. J. Bowyer, Mrs. N. A. Riggins, Mrs. L. W. Cowdery and Mrs. W. F. Sneed.

The Club motto is: "Not for Ourselves, but for Others." Colors, purple and gold; Club flower, golden rod.

Company D.—On the night of November 23, 1914, twenty young men met at the City Hall to consider the organization of a military company. The Governor accepted the application for the enlistment of a company of State troops in Lake-

land. The company was mustered in on the night of June 30, 1915, by Major Collins, of the 2nd Florida regiment. There were 75 members. William Steitz was elected captain and C. A. Wills was elected first lieutenant. Later Egbert Lusk was elected second lieutenant, and Morgan Groover was appointed first sergeant.

With the appearance of the Mexican war cloud, the company was called to service, and left for Black Point, near Jacksonville, on June 21, 1916. They were given an ovation on departing. Company D was the first Florida company mustered into the service of the United States. It remained at Black Point three months, entraining for the Mexican border October 2, 1916. The company was stationed at Laredo, Texas. Returning, the soldiers reached Lakeland March 19, 1917, and were warmly welcomed, and tendered a banquet.

The company was called for service in the World War on August 5, 1917, and at 7 o'clock on the morning of September 16 the members entrained for Macon, a great throng assembling to see them off. They were stationed at Camp Joe Wheeler until sent overseas. News of the arrival in France of a number of the soldiers was received in Lakeland July 6, 1918. The Officers while at Camp Wheeler were: William Steitz, captain; C. A. Wills, first lieutenant; Ossian W. Drane, second lieutenant; Frank E. Washburn, first sergeant; William T. Gibbons, supply sergeant; Will J. McLain, mess sergeant; Shelton W. Meharg, William A. Hardaker, L. V. Lewellin, sergeants.

Lakeland Civic Center.—The outstanding municipal improvements of Lakeland are included in what is known as her Civic Center. This great accomplishment, practically completed, was dedicated with impressive ceremonies July 4, 1928, Governor-elect Doyle Carlton being the speaker of the occasion. In the presentation of the work to the city, the following description written by S. H. Farabee, editor of the *Lakeland Ledger* and *Star-Telegram,* was used, the manuscript, enclosed in a leather case, being presented by City Manager J. F. Council, and accepted on behalf of the city by Mayor-Commissioner W. F. Reid:

"Although the idea of a civic center on Lake Mirror had been germinating in the minds of many Lakeland people for years, it was not until 1923 that this vision assumed definite form. The late Thos. J. Appleyard, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, advocated it vigorously, and an election called by the city commissioners resulted in its approval by an overwhelming majority.

"The city acquired business property along Massachusetts avenue and purchased the Jones grove on the southeastern side, eleven acres between the lake and Orange street. The late Chas. Wellford Leavitt, landscape architect, was called from New York to put the idea into blueprints and specifications.

"He planned a gracefully curved seawall along the northern and southern sides of the lake, with a pretentious structure at the foot of Massachusetts avenue. Here a loggia with rest rooms was erected, the loggia itself carrying two great columns adorned with cluster lights. Across the lake from this point is a smaller ornamental construction, likewise bearing columns and cluster lights. A white way extends all around the lake.

"From the Jones grove to the loggia is a wide promenade, following the shores of the lake. From Massachusetts avenue Main street was extended in a graceful curve to Rose street to the eastern side of the lake, where East Main was projected from Lake avenue. Thus, the motorist gets a comprehensive view of the whole as he rides through the city from east to west.

"All buildings in the civic center conform to the municipal plants on Massachusetts avenue—city hall, auditorium, central fire station, almost butting the lake itself. The commodious Morrell Memorial hospital and nurses' home, a mile to the north, conform to the general plan.

"The artist saw Lake Mirror, with wooded buildings on one side and high grass and weeds along its edges, and converted it into a thing of beauty and a place for recreation and pleasure. The plans approved, Anton Schneider, city manager, in 1926 employed J. W. Bradner, young engineer, to see that they were carried out. The work, intrusted to H. B. Trauger and I. B. Purdy in two separate projects, was performed faithfully, and all city officials cooperated loyally in making the Civic Center approach the actual conception of the designer.

"Concrete and steel were combined to enhance the natural beauty of the lake front. Flowers, shrubbery and grass have been planted, playgrounds and equipment are being placed in the Jones grove, and club house and bandstand are under construction. The American Legion is to erect a memorial building in the grove. All buildings will conform to the general plan of architecture, essentially Spanish.

"The Civic Center development was projected at a period when finances were plentiful. It was erected when times were normal, the result being that for a million dollars the city has obtained a project that many believed would cost three millions.

"It is the most distinctive piece of architecture in America. It is a combination of art with nature to develop a beautiful picture, where one may rest or play or dream or think."

Lakeland Newspapers.

The first newspaper published in Lakeland was the *Lakeland News,* which was established by L. M. Ballard, who had moved his store from Medulla to the "new town on Wire Lake." He erected a two-story building at the corner of Florida avenue and Pine street, the first floor of which he used as a general store, the second floor being the quarters of the newspaper. Mr. Ballard purchased a few cases of second-hand type and an old Army press. The first number of the paper was issued June 10, 1884. Mr. Ballard was editor and D. W. D. Boully, Jr., was publisher. C. D. Clough, who afterwards edited the *Lakeland Sun,* was connected with the paper as "devil." Prof. G. A. Crichet bought *The News* from Capt. Ballard in August, 1885, and another change is noted in April, 1887, when *The News* was sold to S. P. Watson & Company, A. W. Mabbett becoming editor. The name was changed to *The Florida Cracker* in May, and in July of the same year S. P. Watson & Co. sold the paper to the Lakeland Publishing Co. L. L. Bristow then became editor, and H. J. Drane was local editor. D. W. D. Boully purchased an interest in October, 1887. After this C. E. McMullen was in charge for a time. Then, the paper was bought by A. G. Munn,

L. J. J. Nieuwenkamp and E. H. Briggs, the latter being the editor in 1889. For a time the paper was called the *Lakeland Advocate.*

In July, 1893, we find the newspaper again under the management of H. J. Drane and D. W. D. Boully, these gentlemen having leased it. Very soon thereafter B. M. Barrington, of Arkansas, purchased *The Cracker* and changed the name to the *Lake Region Sun.* Another quick change was made in two or three months, B. M. Barrington retiring for the very good reason that the paper did not carry a single display advertisement of a Lakeland merchant. Mr. Barrington was persuaded to reconsider and to continue publication of the paper, the business men promising him better support. Evidently they did not make good their promise, for Mr. Barrington left a few weeks thereafter. It seems there was a temporary suspension, but in December, 1893, it was announced that *The Sun* would appear regularly thereafter, under the ownership and management of H. J. Drane and D. W. D. Boully, with C. E. McMullen in charge of the mechanical end.

In the wet and dry campaign preceding the election of April, 1894, the *Lake Region Sun* was the only paper in the county favoring prohibition. The Bartow and Fort Meade papers had espoused the other side of the question, and *The Sun,* though in doubt as to the merits of the matter, thought the prohibitionists ought to have one newspaper on their side. *The Sun* stated that there were four blind tigers in Lakeland, all running at full blast.

In July, 1895, C. E. McMullen became sole owner of the *Lake Region Sun.* It seems to have had "some little interruptions", but in January, 1896, it shone again as an 8-page paper. It seems then to have run a long time—over a year—without change of ownership, but in June, 1897, it became the property of Park Trammell and C. D. Clough, the latter being the active partner. Mr. Clough changed the somewhat combersome name of his paper from the *Lake Region Sun* to the *Lakeland Sun,* early in 1898. The interest of Mr. Trammell was bought by Mr. Clough in October, 1900, and the latter became sole owner.

D. W. D. Boully, a veteran newspaper man, who established the first newspaper in the county, the *Bartow Informant,* had retired to a farm near Medulla, where he died March 17, 1898.

The constant changes of ownership and shifting of editors indicate that the newspaper, which had also enjoyed several changes of name, was far from a gold mine. Nevertheless, the itch to get into the newspaper business asserted itself in May, 1900, when a second paper was established, which was called the *Polk County News,* with W. Clarence Smith as editor. As had been the case with its contemporary, it started on a career of rapid-fire changes, a company being formed to acquire it in 1901. C. M. Marsh was President of this company, which was called the Lakeland News Company. C. E. McMullen was editor for a while, when he was succeeded by J. R. Spence. Clarence Smith, who retired from *The News,* established the *Florida Strawberry Journal,* a monthly publication, in 1902. It was short-lived.

In August, 1902, R. R. Tomlin, recently from Alabama, purchased the *Polk County News,* and from that time the two papers seemed to have been on a more stable footing, Clough conducting *The Sun* and Tomlin *The News,* for a period of

two or three years. In 1904 the name of the *Polk County News* was changed to *The Lakeland News.* About this time a Bartow paper commented that the Lakeland editors, Tomlin and Clough, got along like twin brothers.

Editor Clough was given a hat by an appreciative candidate, but he was not entirely satisfied, stating that he could also use a pair of breeches.

In the latter part of 1904, M. F. Hetherington, who, with B. B. Tatum, had been publishing the first daily paper in Miami, came to Lakeland to get out a special edition of the *Lakeland News.* This was the first piece of community publicity the town ever had. While preparing it, Mr. Hetherington decided to locate in Lakeland, and he bought the interest of R. R. Tomlin in March, 1905. A few months later he bought the interest of C. E. McMullen, and became sole owner.

In 1906 C. D. Clough sold the *Lakeland Sun* to Park Trammell and J. V. Hutchingson. For a time Robert W. Bentley was in charge of the paper, but the returns were unsatisfactory, and Mr. Bentley resigned to seek a position where the remuneration was more in keeping with his ability. Mr. Trammell had launched on a successful political career, and desired to dispose of *The Sun,* so in 1907 M. F. Hetherington bought the paper and consolidated it with *The News.*

For the first time the newspaper business in Lakeland was placed on a substantial basis, and *The News* grew and prospered. A linotype was installed, the first in the interior of South Florida. Paper was bought in carload lots, instead of by the bundle, as had been the system in vogue in earlier days.

November 1, 1911, Mr. Hetherington launched *The Lakeland Evening Telegram,* the first daily in Polk, if we except the temporary daily issue of the *Bartow Courier-Informant* for three months during the Spanish-American war. The paper was a success from the start, Mr. Hetherington stating that from its first issue until it was sold to Harry Brown, in 1920, it had been self-sustaining, paying its own way at all times, and that not a cent had been borrowed from the bank for the purposes of its publication. In 1913 *The Evening Telegram* building was erected as a home for the paper by Mr. Hetherington, and in April, 1914, a public reception was given, in the nature of a house-warming, and hundreds of persons called to inspect the building and plant.

In 1915 a company was organized to publish a morning newspaper, which was called *The Star.* Dr. W. K. Piner, a minister and a very scholarly gentleman, was engaged as editor, and Royal B. Child was business manager. The paper did not seem to have been the result of popular demand, as after three or four months it went into bankruptcy, and suspended publication. Its difficulties were finally adjusted, and it resumed publication, Mr. Child retiring, however, and establishing *The Lakeland Advertiser,* a weekly newspaper. In July, 1916, Dr. Piner resigned as editor, and L. W. Bloom, late of Kansas, was engaged as editor and business manager. Later he secured the stock of the corporation, and became the owner. The Star had a rather checkered career. It was started as a morning paper, but changed more than once from the morning to the evening field, and back again, and at times was irregular of publication.

In December, 1920, Mr. Hetherington desiring to retire from active business, sold *The Evening Telegram* to Harry Brown, who for sixteen years previous, had

conducted the *St. Augustine Record.* In September, 1922, *The Evening Telegram* and *The Star* effected a consolidation, and the paper became *The Star-Telegram,* with L. W. Bloom and Harry Brown as editors and publishers.

In September, 1924, *The Lakeland Evening Ledger* was launched, with Sam H. Farabee as editor and Earl Mullen as business manager. The paper seemed to strike a popular chord with the public and became successful and influential at once.

The reaction from the boom of 1925 was particularly hard upon newspapers. Large and expensive publications had been issued to carry a tremendous volume of real estate advertising. The sudden cessation of real estate activities cut off the revenues before there could be corresponding curtailment of expenses. Thousands of dollars in advertising accounts suddenly became actually worthless.

The Lakeland Star-Telegram was hard hit by these conditions, and as early as the summer of 1926 bankruptcy or suspension was threatened. The situation became acute in the spring of 1927, and on May 4th of that year a receivership was asked for, and M. F. Hetherington, founder and former owner of the paper, was appointed receiver by the Court. The business was found to be very much involved, but a solution of its difficulties was worked out, a satisfactory settlement of its affairs made, and on July 1st, 1927, Mr. Hetherington resold it to *The Lakeland Ledger Publishing Company. The Star-Telegram* was published by the new owners as a morning paper—Harry Brown being retained as editor—until January 1, 1928, when it was decided that it was not profitable to issue two papers from one plant, and *The Star-Telegram,* as a morning paper was discontinued, Lakeland's first daily newspaper thus ceasing publication, after being identified with the community for seventeen years. The name was perpetuated, however, the two papers being merged into one afternoon edition, under the name of *The Lakeland Ledger and Star-Telegram.*

Meantime, *The Evening Ledger,* having weathered the trying post-boom period, continued to flourish, Bryan Mack having succeeded Earl Mullen in the business management in 1926. Jay Smith, who had been for years a successful publisher at Seymour, Indiana, bought a large interest in *The Ledger* in 1927. At this writing (1928), under the guidance of Messrs. Farabee, Mack and Smith, *The Lakeland Ledger and Star-Telegram* seems to be firmly established and bids fair to give the community many years of useful service.

Chapter V.

AUBURNDALE

From such information as can be obtained at this late day, it would appear that a man largely responsible for the beginnings of development in the Auburndale section, and indeed, in Polk county and other parts of Florida, was William Van Fleet, who for many years preceding his death conducted a small business at Bartow.

To begin with, about the year 1877 there was a railroad wreck at Ashtabula, Ohio, in which a man named Alfred Parslow received sévere injuries. In settlement for his injuries the railroad paid him $10,000. With this money he and his close friend, William Van Fleet, came to Florida, and procured a charter from the State to survey and build a railroad. This ultimately resulted in the construction of the first railroad through this section, originally called the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West railroad, which was built from Kissimmee to Tampa, and from Bartow Junction to Bartow, in 1883.

The pioneering operations of Messrs. Parslow and Van Fleet extended over much of north central Polk, and they located and named many of the lakes. Lake Alfred was named for Mr. Parslow and Mr. Van Fleet conceived and worked out plans for a wonderfully beautiful hotel; originally intended to occupy a site on this lake, but Tampa interests succeeded in locating it at that place.

When these men completed the railroad survey in 1880, they returned to their home in Chicago, and while on this visit influenced the Fullers to come to Florida. Mr. Frank Fuller, a pioneer resident of Auburndale, has furnished us an account of this migration, and inasmuch as details of the circumstances attendant upon the coming of this family to the State are illuminative of conditions at that time, we are giving the story in Mr. Fuller's own language:

"My father had been stricken down with inflammatory rheumatism, and was advised by the doctors to make a change of climate. Mr. Van Fleet's advice was Florida, always Florida, and the question arose in the family councils as to who should go with father. He couldn't take mother and sister, Loie, into a wilderness; my brother was quite young, and it devolved upon me to accompany father to Florida. I was at that time leader of an orchestra at a theater in Chicago. I gave up my position and came with father. The Florida climate was so beneficial to him that four months afterwards he and I went to Gainesville and homesteaded 160 acres each, having acquired information from Mr. Van Fleet that enabled us to locate on the line of his railroad survey. Father's homestead was on the west shore of Lake Mariana, and I went a half mile inland and located all the land lying between Lake Mariana and Lake Bessie. And right here I wish to correct an error, which does me an injustice, I think. When I located my homestead this lake had no name on the government maps, so I named it "Bessie" for my little step-daughter, Bessie, who is now Mrs. Bessie Bryan, wife of Hon. Charlie Bryan,

ex-governor of Nebraska. The old-timers here all call it Lake Bessie, and not Jessie—and if asked who gave it this name, you will be told that Frank Fuller named it in 1881.

"Now, jumping from leading an orchestra in a theater to a wilderness where one had to rely on a shotgun and a fishing pole for meat, and would have to walk six or seven miles for a little corn and sweet potatoes, and carry these home on one's back, didn't quite suit me, but for father's sake I stuck. The fine hunting and fishing that was here was a big factor in inducing me to stay. I could go out any morning, and by noon I could be back with a nice deer, turkey or bear; and fishing! in twenty minutes I could catch sufficient fish to feed twenty people. We would throw back into the lake any fish weighing less than five pounds. Father called these fish bass, as they greatly resembled the northern bass.

"I must tell the great benefit experienced by father through the glorious climate of Polk county. On arriving in Jacksonville, I had almost to carry him to the hotel. This was in December. In the latter part of January we went to Gainesville to make entry of our homestead, and he could walk with assistance of a cane. The following May, we started for Polk county to locate and improve our claims. By this time father had discarded his cane. Now, what I have to relate is almost beyond belief. We took deck passage on the steamer to Sanford, an all-night journey from Jacksonville. What little sleep we got was on a coil of rope, out on deck. Arriving at Sanford, we took a little narrow-gauge railroad to Kissimmee, which at the time was as far as the railroad was built. Then we had forty miles to make the best way we could, so we started out, carrying about forty pounds each on our backs. From Kissimmee we struck right out on our way to our homesteads. The first night out it rained on us all night. I thought the trip was done, on account of the exposure to which my father was subjected, but not so, for the next morning he was as fresh as I was, and full of go. We started out, and should I live to be a hundred years old, I will never forget that beautiful sunrise. We had gone hardly more than 200 yards when a big flock of turkeys went by in single file, and crossed the road not over 200 feet ahead of us, and never flew up. By this, one can realize how wild the country was, for I don't suppose those turkeys had ever heard a gun. We reached Lake Mariana next day, and found that we had been preceded a year by Drs. John and Hugh Patterson, who were of great assistance in locating the lines to our property. We made the necessary improvements, and as the spring rains were over, we returned to Jacksonville, and this was a still harder trip than the one coming down, for the spring rains had flooded the flat roads and creeks. We had a hard time swimming Reedy Creek and wading its marshes. When we arrived at the junction of the roads, where one led to Kissimmee, the other to Orlando, we concluded to go to Orlando—and that was some trip! That flat land between Kissimmee and Orlando was all under water, and we waded in mud and water from ankle to hip deep, for eleven of the twelve miles. We arrived at Orlando about four o'clock in the afternoon, went to a hotel and changed clothes, and what we did to that hotel room was a scandal. The night before we had camped in an old sheep pen, the only dry place we could find. I will never forget the sight when we took off our clothes—

the air was absolutely black with fleas! I thought they were gnats at first, but no, just fleas we had gotten on us sleeping in that old sheep pen. Father's rheumatism had left him with a big running sore on the side of his leg, just above the ankle. This sore was caused by him having rheumatism in former years, and had grown to the size of a silver dollar and had eaten into the bone. About two weeks after we had arrived in Jacksonville, he said to me, 'Frank, my sore is entirely well and has healed over'—and it was. The outdoor life, the climate, and wading those swamps all day had cured him, not only of his rheumatism, but of his rheumatism sore as well.

"When we returned to Florida, father and I kept a hotel, and later we built a town, the largest between Kissimmee and Tampa, and named it Sanitaria. The railroad would not give us a station, but located it one mile west, and called it Auburndale."

The first incident we find mentioned as of public interest, centers about Patterson's store, on Lake Ariana, where on July 4, 1883, a barbecue and barn dance was given, and 200 persons attended—such a large gathering undoubtedly being drawn from a considerable area. In August, 1883, a postoffice was located at Patterson's store, and the name Sanitaria was given to the village. Among those who were living in the vicinity, in addition to others who have been mentioned, were John Harris, J. A. Voyle, J. E. Reeves, Daniel Moore, Berrien Platt, H. Graves, H. Watkins, John Roberts, William Collins, G. W. Griffin, F. W. Long, J. L. Bartles, Lee Reeves, W. L. Patterson, R. R. Foote, J. D. Torrence, J. H. Martin, J. W. Hampton, A. B. Newman and others.

Max Myerson opened a store with a hall above it in March, 1884. Although what development had been made in the vicinity was at Sanitaria, the railroad for some reason, established its station one mile west, naming the station Auburndale. It is said the village was so named by Mrs. Pulsifer, wife of the publisher of the *Boston Herald*. Major Louis McLain, who supervised the building of that portion of the railroad, was a friend of the Pulsifers, and he wrote them a glowing description of the place, and asked that they give it a name. Mrs. Pulsifer suggested Auburndale, the name of her home town, Auburndale, Mass. Late in 1884, the voting precinct was moved from Foxtown to Sanitaria. There were rumors of a contest on the part of a new station called Auburndale, although the latter did not boast of a single house at the time.

It seems that the railroad was stronger than the preferences of the people of the small community, for early in 1887 we find the latter gathered about the new station, with a postoffice called Auburndale. The village then had several business houses. John Patterson, John Mullen, and C. W. Knapp had general stores; Joe P. Wilson operated a sawmill and a real estate office; L. C. Bowyer was in charge of the depot; Woodfin & Co. conducted a drug store; T. B. Watkins was the postmaster, carrying groceries as a sideline; and J. W. Hampton was the host at the Hampton House.

Trucking was conducted on a considerable scale in the late eighties and early nineties, and the Auburndale section was called the home of the tomato.

C. Irving Page was a real estate dealer in the early nineties.

The officers of Auburndale Lodge, F. & A. M., elected in December, 1893, were J. A. Cox, W. M.; B. F. Costine, S. W.; L. C. Bowyer, J. W.; E. M. Howard, secretary; E. M. Baynard, treasurer.

H. P. Walker was active in many lines, as teacher, lecturer and writer, but in 1894 he was particularly active in baseball. In a game at Winter Haven he was injured, and was rendered unconscious for an hour or more, but he made five runs before being knocked out. Not long afterwards he was struck on the arm in a game at Tampa, and disabled for a time. These mishaps did not prevent him from making a fine run for representative that fall, lacking only a few votes of election. He is still living on the farm near Auburndale which has been his home for so many years.

The Raymond Lumber Co. and the Raymond Railroad Co. incorporated, with headquarters at Raymond, which was located a few miles north of Auburndale. The incorporators were Cyrus Raymond, Peter M. Osborn, W. C. Edmiston, Herschel P. Walker, and G. Bert Raymond.

W. S. Preston, who was later prominent in the life of the community and the county, arrived in September, 1894.

E. O. Carver for a number of years operated a lumber and crate mill at what was then called Fitzhugh. His plant was largely given over to the manufacture of tomato crates, while this product was being grown so extensively in the locality.

Auburndale had a library and free reading room quite early in its existence. In 1895 it was believed that this library was farther south than any other like institution in the country. In August, 1895, it was decided to incorporate the Library Association, and the following officers were chosen: W. S. Ryall, president; S. R. Walker, vice-president; A. D. Bowyer, secretary; W. S. Preston, treasurer; E. M. Howard, L. C. Bowyer and K. N. Webb, directors. A public library building was contemplated.

In 1895, the Auburndale Public School had forty pupils, L. C. Bowyer being the teacher; the town boasted of a good band; Rev. Thos. C. Marshall was pastor of the First Presbyterian church; and venison was reported plentiful and cheap.

In January, 1896, the Ladd sisters, two maiden ladies who had been victimized by being sold worthless land at Medora, aroused the sympathies of the people by their condition. Later they were pronounced crazy, but one of them ended the dispute, so far as she was concerned, by dying. The other was sent to the county poorhouse, but "Miss Jennie" soon showed up again at Auburndale, having left the poorhouse and walked all the way back. The record is silent as to her further experiences, but it is hoped that the kind people of the neighborhood cared for her properly.

Mr. Zachery was appointed postmaster, and took charge of the office in April, 1896.

Venison could be bought almost any day on the streets of Auburndale in 1896.

In January, 1897, it was planned to have the streets of Auburndale paved, or, more probably, clayed. A committee consisting of W. C. Edmiston, W. S. Preston, John Patterson, Jr., E. M. Baynard, D. B. Cosby, E. M. Howard and S. B. McKean was appointed to take charge of this matter.

Loie Fuller, then enjoying fame and popularity as a dancer, visited the folks in the old home town in February, 1897, accompanied by her mother. She had paid a previous visit in 1883. Referring to his sister, Mr. Frank Fuller says: "I want to correct a story that has had quite a lot of publicity regarding Loie and her dancing in the old opera house at Sanitaria. This is not true. At that time Loie was not dancing at all, and dancing did not enter her career until years after her visit to us and Florida. Loie was an actress, engaged with such people as Aldrich and Parslo, Nat Goodwin, Frank Mayo, and others equally prominent. She created the serpentine dance, the dance that made her world-famous, in New York City in 1891. In 1892 she went to Paris, and she made her home in Paris until she passed away January 2, 1928."

In the Legislature of 1897 Auburndale furnished a representative—and a good one—in the person of Prof. J. A. Cox.

Auburndale had one negro in 1897.

Even in the non-prohibition days of 1897 they were making moonshine in the Auburndale section. Sweet potatoes and Florida syrup formed the basis for the beverage, which was said to have been "villianous."

An Auburndale correspondent, in 1898, declared that Capt. John Patterson had "more friends and well-wishers than any other man in the county."

Raymond postoffice, which had been discontinued, was reestablished in February, 1899, and Rev. R. P. Owen was postmaster.

In February, 1899, A. H. Zachary resigned as postmaster of Auburndale and W. A. Sands was appointed to the office.

Mr. Lincoln, who had been pastor of the Presbyterian church, resigned in 1899, and he and his daughters started in May on an overland trip to Connecticut. They had three horses hitched to their "house-wagon", and carried a complete housekeeping outfit. They expected to be three months in reaching their destination. The Ford of today would be highly amused if it could contemplate this trip.

E. M. Baynard, long in the merchandising business at Auburndale, sold out in 1902 to A. E. Dickey.

William Collins was shipping some fine fruit from his place near Auburndale in 1902, at which time he was eighty years old, and had been living in Florida fifty years.

In November, 1902, there had been no death in the town of Auburndale for two years.

A Board of Trade was organized in 1903. W. A. Sands was president, John Patterson, Jr., vice-president; Elmer E. Cline, secretary and treasurer. Mr. Cline had arrived not long before and had established the Cline Engineering Co.

Mrs. W. C. Edmiston made guava jelly on a large scale, and it was a very superior article.

In 1903 Auburndale established a "color line", which had a radius of a quarter of a mile from the railroad station, which was then the exact center of the town. No colored person was allowed to live in the area bounded by this line.

Auburndale was excited in July, 1904, over a factional fight concerning a new fence that had been put around the Park. The old one had fallen into decay, and the habit of making short cuts across the Park had been formed. The Board of Trade and the railroad company had a new fence put up, but this displeased those who had been accustomed to enter the Park from the various openings of the old fence, and at night unknown parties sawed openings in the new fence to suit themselves.

Rev. J. K. Nutting was pastor of the Presbyterian church in 1905.

Col. R. R. Foote died May 19, 1906, at Auburndale. He had lived in the Auburndale section since 1886, having taken up a homestead on Lake Arietta, where he died. He assisted in the survey of the South Florida railway, and all the lands around Auburndale. He and his son-in-law, William Van Fleet, named most of the lakes in the vicinity of Auburndale.

A. E. Dickey and others petitioned the county commissioners to close the streets, avenues, and alleyways of the former town of Sanitaria, in 1907. The petition was granted, saving and excepting Central avenue.

The Club House, on the east shore of Lake Ariana, received its first visitors the week of December 20, 1908. It was called the Seminole Club, T. H. McRorie being the promoter. In February, 1909, this Club House was enjoying excellent patronage under the management of Col. J. H. A. Bruce, formerly of Lakeland.

The State Bank of Auburndale was organized in May, 1912, with a capital stock of $15,000. W. S. Ryall was president; A. J. Mobley, first vice-president; C. M. Clayton, second vice-president; Fred O'Doniel, cashier. A bank building was erected.

A school site was chosen at Auburndale in May, 1913, on Ariana Heights, this being a free gift from Capt. John Patterson. The location was selected by a vote of the people.

Practically the entire business section of Auburndale, with the exception of the State Bank building, was reduced to ashes November 23, 1913. The fire started in the H. P. Walker building. The loss was estimated at $50,000, with insurance of only $3,000, this being due to the high rate of insurance at that time—$16 per thousand. It was a great calamity, but there was an amusing incident in connection with it. Services were being held at the Methodist church, and ex-Marshal Crosby appeared at the door, and raising his hand, called out: "Mr. Preacher, I don't want to interrupt your sermon, but the whole d—— town is burning up."

Until recent years Auburndale had enjoyed only a gradual though steady growth. In the period since 1924, however, development has been marked, a half million dollars or more having been expended for civic improvements. A complete network of paved streets has been constructed; the Auburndale Power & Light Co. has extended its service; there is a live Chamber of Commerce; an active Woman's Club; five flourishing churches, and other social and welfare organizations. Additional school buildings were provided in 1915 and 1923, and more recently $70,000 was expended in further additions to the school facilities. The advent of the Seaboard Air Line railway gives the transportation advantages of

two main line railroads. All these things conspire, with natural beauty of environment, to make Auburndale a most attractive and up-to-date little city.

Auburndale Newspapers.—As early as 1888 we find reference to a newspaper published in Auburndale, called the *Auburndale News.* A newspaper of another town referred to *The News* as "small, but full of good reading, with plenty of typographical errors."

In 1893 Auburndale had a newspaper known as the *Political Educator.* It is evident from the name its purpose was to educate its readers along some line of political thought, and there are indications that it favored the policies of the Farmers' Alliance, which was active in this section at that time. Its life was short, as late in the same year it was moved from Auburndale to Ocala, where it merged with another paper and became a populist organ.

Earl Chapin May, who is now a frequent contributor to the leading magazines, established the *Auburndale Herald,* in 1912. L. J. Urlwiller and E. E. Cline published the *Auburndale New Era* in 1914, John G. Hanna taking charge in 1915. Later, the paper was called *The News.* George F. Gale conducted the *Auburndale Advocate* in 1917, publication being discontinued in April, 1918.

The *Auburndale News* was established in 1923 by Harry Corneal, who is still in charge of the publication. The *Auburndale Journal* is one of the Smith Publishing Co.'s chain of publications—the town also being served by the *Tri-City Times,* published at Winter Haven by J. G. Metcalf.

Chapter VI.

SOCRUM AND KATHLEEN

The Socrum settlement is one of the two oldest communities in the county, there being some doubt as to whether Socrum or Fort Meade has the seniority. As early as 1850 there were a few families in the neighborhood. The Friers, the Hancocks, and the Sloans seemed to have been among the earliest settlers. The first white child born in the county is said to have been J. R. Frier, who is still living, being now a resident of Longwood, in Orange county. The date of his birth was June 18, 1850. He is an uncle of D. H. Sloan, and father-in-law of Rev. L. W. Entzminger, a former pastor of the Lakeland Baptist church. J. J. Lewis, father of A. A. Lewis, and grandfather of Henry Lewis, was among the very earliest settlers, and he is said to have built the first dwelling house in Bartow. M. D. Raulerson, Asbury Robertson, Alonzo Robertson, M. G. Fortner, and J. D. Poppell, were among early residents of the section. John Bryant, patriarch of the large and prominent family of that name, came from Columbia county and located near Socrum in 1862. He was the father of eleven children, and, at the time of his death in 1903, he had nearly 100 grandchildren. There were 37 registered voters bearing the name of Bryant in the Kathleen precinct in 1901.

Hon. D. H. Sloan, who was born in the Socrum section, in referring to these early days, says: "I never saw a cook stove until I was nearly grown. The cooking was done in heavy pots in open fireplaces. Most of the clothing we wore was made of cloth woven on the old-time loom, and it was sewed by hand—there were no sewing machines. There were no sawmills. The houses had split puncheon floors, and there were split boards for doors, roofs, and all. There were no wire or plank fences, but split boards, nailed lengthwise or upright, on rails that were also split, were used to enclose pastures or yards. People drove in ox or horse carts or wagons—there were very few buggies—often ten miles or more to church, and children often walked several miles to school over pig trails, wading branches or creeks. Sometimes it was necessary to swim the horses for those on horseback to reach the church; now, if the church is further than just around the corner, some think they cannot go unless a car is provided. People then sat for two hours listening to the sermon and were not tired, but now thirty minutes is considered too long, though hours at a picture show is not long enough. Of course, those good old days didn't have all that was good, nor does the present have all that is evil; but we didn't have short skirts then, or many divorce suits; no lip-stick or painted cheeks, but cheeks that were rosy from plenty of open-air exercise, with occasionally, maybe, a little red pokeberry juice, smeared on the cheeks. I was about to forget the bulged and hooped skirts, and the now ridiculous bustle. Oh, well! every day and time has its charm, its ridiculous aspects, its good, its bad, its joys, its sorrows."

In 1881, civilization had not made very great impress upon the wild life of the section. Hiram Bryant, of Foxtown, was attacked by an alligator as he was

crossing a stream; and William Collins, who lived not far distant, had to defend his home from a wildcat, which disputed his ownership, and put up a good fight. A neighbor at the time declared that this fight with the wildcat did Mr. Collins more good than a dozen preachers would have accomplished.

There was a debating society in that section in 1881—or, perhaps two of them. At any rate, Foxtown and Gapway were wont to meet in forensic battle.

In September, 1881, Mr. Browning died at Foxtown, aged over 100 years. There was considerable trouble in getting the planks or boards necessary to make his coffin.

In July, 1882, O. J. Frier, after taking Miss Georgia V. Hayman as his bride at Bartow, returned to the Socrum neighborhood, and taught school at Socrum church. Mr. Frier, with A. A. Lewis, also taught a singing school at the church. A Mr. Robertson, about the same time, taught a school at Ebenezer Lodge, and Profs. Ege and Williams taught a singing school at the same place.

N. A. Cochran conducted a store at Lanier's mill for some time prior to 1883, later removing to Medulla, and engaging in business there.

Socrum seemed to be a magnet for preachers, as in the Spring of 1883 Rev. W. A. Bostwick, of Georgia; Rev. Keith, of Texas, and Rev. Silas Turner, of the northern part of Florida, all located there. The two last named engaged in merchandising at Nathan Cochran's old stand.

Capt. R. Bryant conducted the store near Socrum in the early eighties. He donated lands to the Baptist and Methodist churches, on which the people of these denominations placed church buildings.

Kathleen and Socrum may be considered as practically one community, although the former as a business point is younger, coming into existence with the advent of the railroad, and the establishment of the station. It is said that the town was named for Mrs. Catherine Prine, who moved to that section from Hillsborough county when a small child, and died there in August, 1916, at the age of 76. The first reference to the place we find in print gives the spelling as "Cathleen." That was in 1887. At that time the community of Kathleen, extending to Socrum, included many families which have later figured in the business, social and political life of this section. Among these residents at that time might be mentioned: H. M. Frier, W. H. Hancock, Orville Sloan, J. W. Lanier, G. A. Bryant, J. T. Poppell, Rowan Sapp, Dan Moore, Henry Bryant, Rufus Bryant, Belila Foote, J. J. Lewis, T. H. Bryant, A. A. Lewis, George Bryant, Tim O'Gara, Nutt Mizelle, Lorenzo Bryant, Fred Miller, Rev. W. W. Bostwick, J. R. Frier, E. G. Wilder, Jasper Bryant, Emory Bryant, S. S. Niblack, Clater Sherhouse, J. W. Bailey, J. J. Sutton, J. H. Hancock, J. W. Tucker, W. H. Stafford, John Gavin, E. S. Mallory, etc. There was a Baptist and a Methodist church, and a school house.

C. G. Fletcher and family came from Georgia to Socrum in 1900. He conducted a general store there for a number of years.

Providence complained in 1900 that it had only one public road—from Foxtown to Pickpocket—but boasted of a fine school, where the pupils were studying

from "Latin all the way down to mileybright." Mr. Taylor, the teacher, was described as a "long, keen, good one."

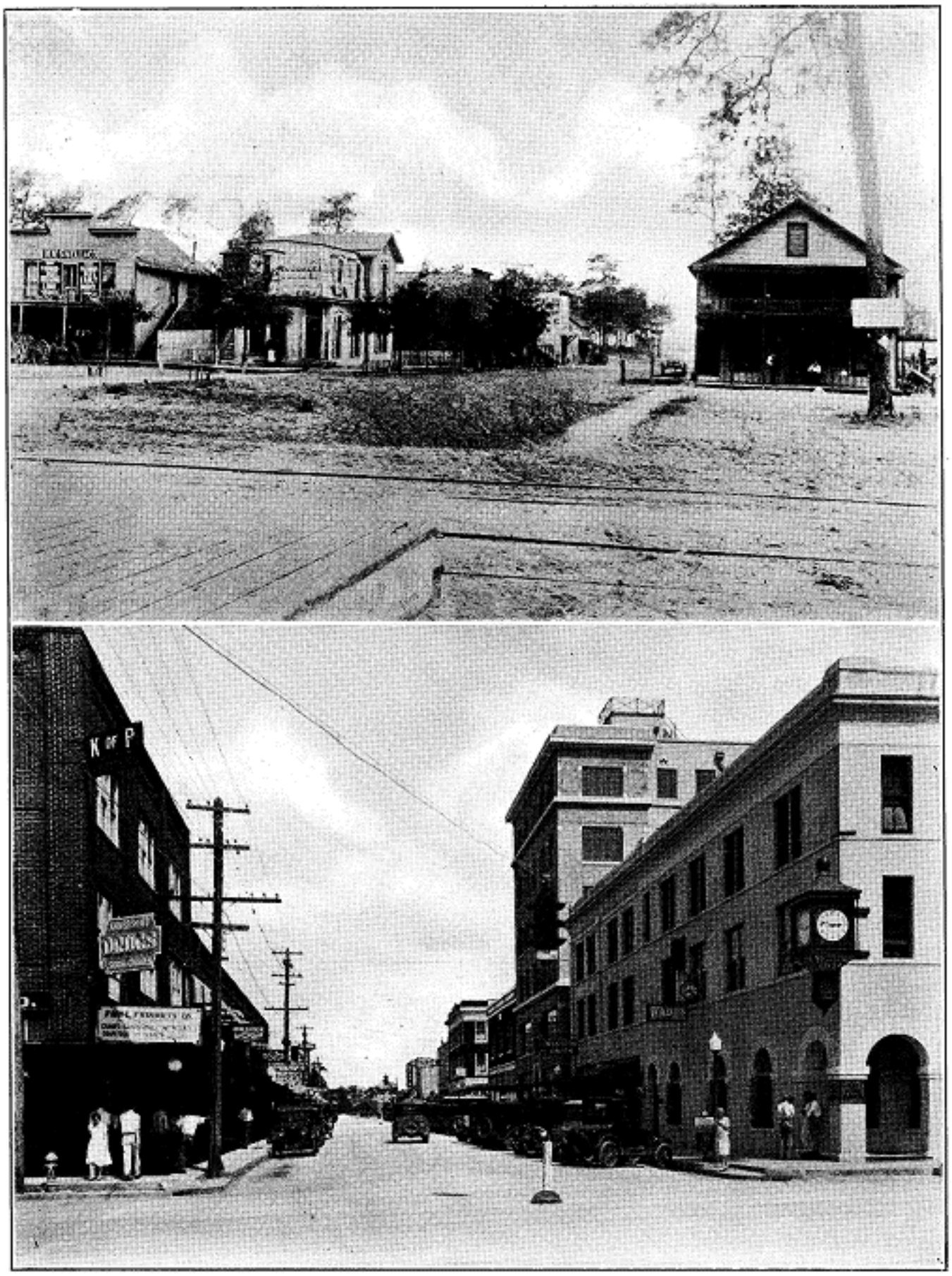
In 1903 Strickland & Roberts bought a large tract of land in the Kathleen section and established a lumber mill. The firm conducted an extensive business there for nine years, closing its operations in May, 1912.

E. G. Wilder was long a leading citizen of the section. He died March 24, 1911.

Kerfoot Bryant made the best yield of corn among 34 boys contesting from various parts of the county, according to the report of the county demonstration agent, in 1914. He obtained 56 bushels to the acre.

Kathleen was incorporated in December, 1914. W. A. Casebier was mayor; A. S. Keith, clerk; Henry Rutledge, marshal; W. Lanier, chairman of the council, and Messrs. Rose, Green, Baldwin and Robinson, councilmen.

In latter years there has been considerable increase in the population of this section, the fine farming lands attracting many newcomers.



Upper—East Central Avenue, Winter Haven, 1895.
Lower—Same Avenue, 1928.

Chapter VII.

WINTER HAVEN

The early beginnings of Winter Haven, like those of other communities that slowly evolve from the wilderness, are somewhat obscured by the mists of the years. The first settlers in the section of the country that includes the present site of the now flourishing city, seem to have been the Boyds, the Jacksons, the Sykes and the Eycleshimers, these families being found on the scene as early as 1883. R. O. Boyd was the head of the family of that name, and his son, W. F. Boyd, now a prominent citizen of Winter Haven, is the only person apparently who was on the ground at the date mentioned.

Winter Haven was laid out in 1885. Blount & Whitledge, realtors of Bartow, owned most of the lands comprising the site of the proposed town, and they had the clearing done, the lots staked and the streets laid out. This work was done by Messrs. Bailey and Kennedy, who were among the recent arrivals. It is said that deer and other game would wander in to the newly opened streets at night, and numbers of these were killed.

The first store seems to have been established by Hovey & Harris — it was F. A. K. Harris, but we fail to find Hovey's first name. The building was a "combination store and public house"—presumably a lodging house—and it was erected in March, 1887. Henry Tandy is credited with conducting the first mercantile business, and with having the first telephone, which for some years was the only telephone in town. Meanwhile, the railroad had been built from Bartow Junction (now Lake Alfred) through to Bartow, and a station was established at this point. It is said that the first religious services ever held in the community was held in the waiting room of the depot by the Rev. Mr. Shives.

The first church building was erected by the Baptists. It was a small frame structure, built about 1886 or 1887, during the pastorate of Rev. Crozier. For a time the Presbyterians used the same building for their services, but erected a church of their own in 1892, and the same year the Baptist church was remodeled and enlarged. This building served until the present handsome edifice was erected in 1915, at a cost of about $30,000.

The first school is said to have been built on the site of the present graded school, and opened in 1886, with Miss Bessie Walker as teacher. There were seven pupils in attendance. In 1909 an Annex was added to the school building, S. W. Bryson having the contract. A fine new school building was erected in 1916, and in 1922 a splendid High School building was provided, to care for the rapidly growing demands, the school enrollment at that time having reached 800.

Dr. F. W. Inman was on the ground in 1887, and he built a residence, to which he added from time to time, until finally he had the famous Florence Villa Hotel, one of the most noted hostelries of Florida. Work on this building was done by A. B. Harrington, the first of Winter Haven's builders.

In 1887, P. D. Eycleshimer was raising strawberries extensively, and there were a number of growers with good crops of tomatoes. Things were still a bit new, however, for one day in that year Robert Page shot a very fine buck deer only about a mile from town.

In 1893, Dr. Inman was adding to his mansion. When the addition was completed it provided 36 rooms, furnishing accommodations for 75 or 100 guests.

Winter Haven had a canning factory in 1893, which canned considerable quantities of guavas and tomatoes, products which were grown extensively in that locality at the time.

In 1893, H. W. Snell was merchandising in Winter Haven; T. A. Currie was successfully farming at Eloise, near by; A. B. Hughes bought out the mercantile business of R. H. Peacock & Co.; E. R. Wharton was justice of the peace; Frederick W. Ohlinger was granted patents on two very ingenious inventions—one a fertilizer distributor, and the other a seed planter; F. H. Bevis patented the Bevis Transplanter; and, in October, the death of Rev. S. T. Wilson, who had been pastor of the Presbyterian church for five years, caused much sorrow.

President H. B. Plant, of the Plant System, was among the distinguished people who visited Dr. Inman at Florence Villa in January, 1894, and he was surprised to find that his host had several acres in pineapples growing in the open without protection. Dr. Inman said there had been no frost that would kill a tomato plant in the seven years that he had been living at Winter Haven, hence considered that region immune from frost. Later he was to learn that, though greatly favored by location, that section, as well as any other in Florida, has frost damage at some time.

Wniter Haven was a great trucking center in those days, tomatoes, particularly, being grown in large quantities. J. B. Briggs, of Kentucky, had one field of 300 acres in 1894. 123,000 crates of tomatoes were shipped from the vicinity in 1893-4. It was said in 1895 that Winter Haven was the greatest shipping point for tomatoes in the world. Instances were recorded of sales as high as $13.33 a bushel. There were numerous sales at $10 per case of three pecks; an average price, however, was about $3.50 per crate.

R. H. Burr, later State Railroad Commissioner, was appointed postmaster of Winter Haven in the spring of 1895.

In 1896, some of the streets were surfaced with Bartow clay; in March, Miss M. L. Verdier established the *Lake Region Gazette,* Winter Haven's first newspaper, which lived a year; and the Florence Villa had its usual throng of guests.

R. H. Peacock was appointed postmaster in 1896, but the matter was held up and Charles G. Wilson became postmaster.

There was a broom factory in 1897, operated by Mr. Seeley.

Henry Tandy had the contract for carrying the Eloise mail, at $225 a year.

J. R. Davis was raising fine crops of truck, largely eggplant, at Eloise, near by, in 1898; and in 1899 there were large shipments of peaches made from Winter Haven. The peach industry grew to such proportions that in 1900 Dr. Inman was shipping fine fruit by the carload.

In 1899, the record notes that "F. A. K. Harris killed an old settler last week." However, as further along reference is made to the "old settler's" rattles, the story is not as bad as it first appears.

Richard Klemm's nurseries were in successful operation in 1900.

The beauty of its surroundings, and the excellence of its management, were attracting many guests to Florence Villa. The fine hostelry was filled in the season of 1901. There were nearly 300 acres of groves connected with the property, through which the guests were allowed to wander at will.

During the season of 1901 it was said that every citizen and nearly every resident was a producer, and the section surrounding marketed more than any other in the county. Among the more successful shippers were Col. L. B. Boyd and his sons, W. F. and T. J.

In 1901, Winter Haven was host to the rest of the county at a big Fourth of July celebration. Bob Bryson was manager for the day, and Boyd's Hall was the headquarters. There was a barbecue, speeches, and sports of all kinds. The Winter Haven Social Club was at the head of all social activities at this time.

A postoffice called Wahnita was established at Florence Villa in 1901.

Robert Bryson opened a real estate office in 1902.

H. W. Snell established a general merchandise store in 1903 with Watson D. Yonally as manager. This made three stores in Winter Haven at that date.

Winter Haven had a destructive fire April 16, 1903. In fifteen minutes after the alarm a dozen business houses and residences were in flames, among them Boyd's Hall, the old Parker store building, and the store of H. W. Snell & Co., in which the postoffice was located. The store of F. A. K. Harris was saved by the heroic work of the bucket brigade, some thirty in number. The depot, the Baptist church and Henry Tandy's store were in danger, but were saved. The loss was in the neighborhood of $10,000, with insurance of less than one-fourth of that amount. The buildings were of an unsubstantial character, and the fire resulted, as is usual in growing communities, in great improvement. By mid-summer the burned buildings had been replaced by much better ones, including a store house for H. W. Snell & Co., in which the postoffice was located.

Winter Haven had a big celebration July 4, 1904, addresses being delivered by Rev. D. A. Dodge and Judge C. A. Boswell. W. H. McLean was in charge of the arrangements.

In 1904, Winter Haven was building a new hotel; many people of wealth in the north were being attracted to the community; Robt. H. Bryson was booster-in-chief.

Dr. D. A. Dodge, who served the Presbyterian church for years, left for the West in May, 1905. A reception was tendered the minister and his wife, and an elegant gold-headed cane was presented the Doctor by P. D. Eycleshimer on behalf of the congregation. Rev. James Winnard, of Hamilton, Illinois, succeeded Dr. Dodge.

In August, 1905, Dr. Inman added 43 rooms to the Florence Villa hotel. In April, 1906, he sold the hotel and 695 acres of land to the Florence Villa Hotel Co.

The Winter Haven brass band, organized in 1905, had Prof. McLean, of Auburndale, as leader, and the following members: H. W. Snell, E. C. Howard, E. L. McLain, Chas. Greenwood, Duval Gates, W. F. Johnston, Dell Drawdy, Israel Johnson, Clarence Eycleshimer, Earl Haskins and R. H. Bryson.

A Methodist church congregation was organized in December, 1905, the Bishop having appointed Rev. T. J. Fink as organizer and first pastor. A small wooden building was early erected, and in this the congregation worshipped until the pastorate of Rev. H. C. Barnett, in 1914 and 1915, during which a handsome brick edifice was built at a cost of $16,000. A brick parsonage was also built at the same time, and, in 1921, a Sunday School building was erected in the rear of the parsonage.

At a meeting held at Plant City to organize the Florida Growers' Co., Winter Haven was chosen as headquarters of the organization. Josiah Varn, Bradentown, was president; J. W. Sample, Bartow, vice-president, and R. H. Peacock, Winter Haven, secretary.

In 1907 the Winter Haven Co-operative Store was building a business house with hall above; Mrs. F. A. K. Harris, whose store had been burned, had rebuilt, and had opened with a fine new stock; J. N. Ackley was conducting the Lakeview hotel; Dr. S. H. Woods, late of Fort Meade, had opened a new drug store; Bowen & Smith had a grocery and market; Henry Tandy's big store was doing a thriving business; W. W. Mann, besides his main business house, had opened a furniture store; Roger Lyle's feed store was under the management of Volley Hallman; and L. S. Wharry had let the contract for a new hotel.

In 1908 the Presbyterians, who had built a church in 1892, erected an Annex for Sunday School and community welfare purposes.

T. J. Bingham died at Eagle Lake February 27, 1908. He had resided there for 18 years.

Henry Tandy installed an electric light plant in April, 1908.

The Winter Haven telephone system was connected with the outside world in November, 1908. The town then boasted twenty telephones.

Winter Haven Lodge No. 26, F. & A. M., was organized in December, 1908, and received its charter in January, 1909. The first meeting was held December 23, 1908, in a building known as the Co-operative Store Building. The following officers were elected: L. L. Barnes, P. M. of Tuscan Lodge No. 6, W. M.; Henry Tandy, S. W.; W. A. Clark, J. W.; E. L. Haskins, secretary; J. N. Ackley, treasurer; W. C. Stacer, chaplain; H. Kronmiller, tyler. A fine home for the lodge was purchased in June, 1917.

The First Christian church was organized in 1909, by Rev. Sam White, an evangelist who was conducting a series of meetings at Winter Haven. M. L. Hinderliter and Willis Smith were the first elders, and Bert Harris the first deacon. A church building was erected in 1912 under the pastorate of Rev. E. S. Allhands. It was the first brick church building in the city.

H. W. Snell & Co. opened Winter Haven's first bank, June 8, 1909, which ever since has been a most prosperous institution. H. W. Snell was Chairman of the Board and cashier, the directors being A. B. Harrington, W. N. Denham, W. C. Bentley and W. B. Swearingen. A substantial bank building was erected in 1911,

which was remodeled in 1921, a third story being added and the building extended. It is now the Snell National Bank.

The Walola Hotel was erected by W. W. Mann in 1909.

The Florence Villa Citrus Growers' Association was established in August, 1909. George E. Koplin, H. Guy Nickerson, Sidney C. Inman and C. H. Thompson were the incorporators. The Winter Haven Association was formed about the same time, the incorporators being Charles Pugsley, Lester Windsor and T. J. Boyd. A packing house was erected at once by the Winter Haven Sub-Exchange. Ten years later this building was replaced by another structure, said to be the largest and best packing house in the State.

In the vicinity of Winter Haven in 1909, there were over 300 acres in citrus nurseries, and over 5,000 acres in groves.

In 1910, there were fifteen automobiles in Winter Haven; E. G. McLean was pastor of the First Presbyterian church; Henry Tandy donated a fine lot to the Masons; the Winter Haven band was much in demand; that summer there was more building in progress in Winter Haven than ever before; Henry A. Marks invented a grove heater; William Boyd installed an ice plant and waterworks; and Creel & Gilmore patented a fruit washer, dryer and polisher.

A Board of Trade was organized in October, 1910. E. L. Haskins was president, Chas. W. Barnes secretary, W. W. Mann treasurer.

Winter Haven's first motion picture show was opened by R. E. Norman in the Cason building, early in December, 1910. The Bonita, Winter Haven's first theater, was built about the same time by Mr. Ripley. It was destroyed by fire in 1915.

J. N. Ackley built the Ackley hotel in 1910, this being the first brick building in the town.

In 1910 there were fifteen autos in Winter Haven. L. Collins was said to have owned the first in the city—a Reo—and J. N. Ackley and W. C. Bentley were car owners a little later.

Kee-Moore & Co. established a private bank in 1911, opening for business November 1. O. B. Kee was president, J. E. Moore vice-president, and W. F. Hutchinson cashier. In 1912, J. D. Porter bought a controlling interest, and the institution became known as J. D. Porter & Co. It became the First State Bank in September, 1914. John L. Fouts bought a controlling interest and became president.

The Florida Chief, Winter Haven's first real newspaper, was first issued September 30, 1911.

The Winter Haven postoffice was raised from third to second class in July, 1914.

The Catholics, who had been holding services at the homes of members of that faith, bought the old Methodist Episcopal church, and moved it to the present site. The first Mass was celebrated on Thanksgiving day, 1914, Father Latalois officiating. It has been necessary to enlarge the building to accommodate the growth of the congregation.

Municipal officers in 1915 were L. P. Worden, mayor; C. H. Davidson, W. C. Bentley, Dr. J. E. Crump and A. M. Klemm, councilmen; Bruce Woodham, marshal; Raymond Hedrick, clerk.

The fine home of Mr. and Mrs. Alvey, on Lake Ebert, was destroyed by fire on the morning of December 28, 1914. Those attracted by the brilliant flames were unable to do anything to check them, and the house burned to the ground. It was at first supposed that the family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Alvey and their three daughters, was absent; but investigation disclosed that all five had been burned. The charred bodies, impossible of recognition, were found, Mrs. Alvey being identified by her wedding ring. The origin of the fire was not known.

The contract was let early in 1915 for the connecting of twenty lakes adjacent to Winter Haven, by canals. The Beasley Contracting Co., of Atlanta, was given the contract.

The Peace Creek Drainage District was created in 1915 for the purpose of draining 48,000 acres of land in the Winter Haven section. The contract for the drainage work was let in July to A. B. Willis & Son, for a sum in the neighborhood of $50,000. The district had been bonded for $256,000. E. L. Mack, R. C. Hatton and Lycurgus Burns were the commissioners.

In 1915, the first asphalt paving was laid, the streets paved being East and West Park streets, the Villa road, and Central avenue.

Municipal officers elected to serve for the year 1917 were: W. W. Hampton, mayor; H. W. Snell, S. F. Poole, and Max Viertel, councilmen.

Winter Haven held a big celebration in connection with the opening of the Dixie Highway, December 6, 1917. There were speeches, sports, and other features. J. Walker Pope was master of cermonies.

In 1917, the Episcopalians erected a house of worship, a dedication service being held on April 8th. Rev. Davet, rector of the churches at Bartow and Mulberry, also included the Winter Haven church in his charge.

In the summer of 1922, H. E. Cornell, with George Haldeman, of Lakeland, made a trans-continental airplane trip, the longest trip ever made by civilian flyers up to that time.

The National Bank of Winter Haven was opened for business January 26, 1922, with Max E. Viertel, chairman of the board; Roswell C. Irwin, president; Charles A. Faircloth, L. P. Kirkland, B. B. Marshall and Chas. W. Adams, vice-presidents; O. R. Lindstrom, assistant cashier.

In 1922 a program of improvement was launched that during that year and the year following gave Winter Haven all the advantages of a real city. Ten or twelve miles of asphaltic street paving were laid, which, with about 4½ miles that had been previously constructed, made it a well-paved city; a handsome city hall was erected; a white way was installed, covering the business section, and an adequate sewerage system was constructed.

An Orange Festival was held in Winter Haven January 22-24, 1923, and this pleasing and spectacular exposition has been an annual event of interest ever since.

The Haven Hotel, which had been an ambitious undertaking inaugurated some years previous, was completed in January, 1924.

An Exchange Club was organized and received its charter December 15, 1925. The officers were Hart McKillop, president; R. E. Gilbert, vice-president; M. W. Hart, secretary.

Dr. J. H. Ross, founder of the Citrus Exchange, and one of the most able and useful citizens Polk County has ever boasted, died at his home at Winter Haven, December 29, 1925.

The Woman's Civic League dedicated its new building, one of the finest in the State, January 22, 1924. The business houses of the city closed during the dedication, as an expression of the esteem in which the League is held.

From a straggling village, the mere shipping point of a splendid but sparsely settled agricultural section, Winter Haven has emerged in recent years a full-fledged city, with every municipal improvement—many miles of paved streets, an extensive white way, an adequate sewerage system, a splendid water supply from two deep wells, etc., these improvements having been provided at a cost of about $600,000. A network of asphalt roads, including the Dixie Highway, radiate in every direction from the city; and two great railroads provide excellent transportation facilities. The Seaboard Air Line Railway, which was built through the section in 1925, has erected a beautiful depot of Spanish design, costing $52,500. Winter Haven upholds her traditional importance as a producing point by shipping one-half of the citrus fruits grown in Polk, there being 9,000 acres of productive groves in the immediate vicinity of the city, in addition to the largest citrus nursery in the world. These things make for the prosperity and substantial progress of the city, which promises to maintain and continue in this respect its splendid record of the past.

Winter Haven Newspapers.—The first newspaper venture at Winter Haven was undertaken by Miss M. L. Verdier, who became editor and proprietor of the *Lake Region Gazette* in March, 1896. There is evidence that Miss Verdier displayed considerable ability as an editor, but it is probable that the field was too small at the time, for after a year's trial she decided to discontinue the publication. Miss Verdier, in her valedictory, said she had had some useful experiences; had made some friends, some enemies, but no debts; and that she would not pass through another such year "for all the riches of Golconda, for the combined love of Cupid and Adonis."

This experience seems to have deterred others from venturing into the Winter Haven newspaper field for many years; until in 1911 M. M. Lee, hailing from Kansas, recognized the potentialities of the growing village of Winter Haven, and established the *Winter Haven Chief*. There seems to have been thus effected the combination of the man with the opportunity, for during all these years *The Chief* has worked unceasingly for Winter Haven, and Winter Haven has evidently appreciated *The Chief*, and both the paper and the town have grown remarkably. *The Chief* has kept pace with all newspaper demands, going to a semi-weekly in September, 1921, and then to a daily September 15, 1924.

The Saturday World was published early in 1915 by Park H. Adams. It was "the only penny paper in Florida." It lived only a few months.

The Peninsular Patriot was published in 1917 by H. G. Camp, but its existence ended early.

The Tri-City Times is a weekly newspaper, conducted by James G. Metcalf. This paper also serves Auburndale and Lake Alfred.

Chapter VIII.

DAVENPORT

(Compiled by W. S. Allen)

The first white settlers to locate in Davenport were Henry Goodman and James E. Bowen. Goodman came in February of 1883, but little is known of him. Bowen came from Statesboro, Georgia, June 2, 1883, with his wife and seven children. James E. Bowen is now in his 78th year, hale and hearty, and claims 115 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, a number of whom live in or near Davenport with their families. He earned a living by hunting deer and wild turkey, which he furnished to the Tropical Hotel, operated by W. L. Douglas and owned by the South Florida Railroad, at Kissimmee. James Bowen raised an abundance of green garden truck and planted a seedling orange grove, which is still bearing fine fruit.

In 1883, the South Florida Railroad started operation through this section. A small station was built about a half mile north of the present Atlantic Coast Line depot. Only two trains a day were operated and these stopped only when flagged. Fire destroyed the station and only a platform was rebuilt. A new depot was erected in 1915 and in 1926 a $11,000 freight and passenger station was completed at the intersection of Bay street and the Dixie Highway by the Atlantic Coast Line.

A man by the name of Mearns came from Illinois and operated a cypress shingle mill in 1885 and 1886. The lumber was taken from a woods now known as Forest Park. Mearns later moved to Loughman and operated a sawmill.

Little is known of the years intervening up to 1910. T. J. McKnight and his family came from South Carolina in 1906 and settled in Davenport. In 1910 E. T. Hitchcock and his family came from Chicago, where he had operated a drug store. Hitchcock built one of the first houses in Davenport, near the corner of Bay street and the Dixie Highway, where he lived and conducted the postoffice from the time of his appointment in 1912 until February, 1928, when the postoffice was moved to new and larger quarters in The Mart, across the street from the original site, but Hitchcock has remained postmaster since his appointment. He also ran a drug store on the side in the old building. When he reached Davenport, there were two white families in the community, besides the Bowen family who lived just beyond, and nearly a hundred negroes, all of whom lived around Lake Play, back of the present City Hall.

T. J. McKnight operated a turpentine still, located in the center of the present city limits, from 1906 to 1912. The still was owned by the Davenport Naval Stores Company, composed of C. C. Burns of Tampa, M. E. Weeks, Charles Weeks, C. A. Parrish and G. B. Murrell, all of Lakeland. A commissary was run for the negroes and metal cheques were used in trade for supplies.

In 1911 and 1912, there was a sudden influx of pioneers, bent on trying their skill and luck raising winter vegetables. They came from Ohio, New York, Indiana and Illinois. They were attracted to Davenport by advertisements run in

Northern newspapers by the Florida Development Company, who sold land for farming and fruit growing at $25 an acre. Some stayed and succeeded, while others from lack of sufficient funds and experience, were forced to abandon their earnest efforts. Some of those who came and returned held on to their land and in later years came back to make their home in Davenport and see their land increase in value.

When the Dixie Highway was paved in 1917 by the McDonald Construction Company, a veritable cow path of ruts was converted into a velvety ribbon and transportation became more comfortable.

About a mile north of the city limits, the Bell Land Company cleared 4,000 acres of muck and farm land, started planting experimental crops. The operations ceased upon the death of W. W. Bell, the owner, the son, Lawrence Bell, devoting all of his time to the administration of his father's estate. This land was later bought by the Davenport Farms Corporation in 1926, who plant about 500 acres in staple truck.

C. A. Monohan, now a resident of Tampa, built and conducted the first general merchandise store in 1911. There was only one small store in Haines City at that time, but most of the trading was done in Kissimmee and Lakeland.

Two sources of information are given as to the origin of the name Davenport. One gives it as coming from old Fort Davenport, used in the Seminole Indian war and located about 12 miles northwest of the present townsite of Davenport. Another version is the name was derived from a conductor on the old South Florida Railroad, named Davenport.

In 1919, the development of Davenport was started in a big way. Lorenzo A. Wilson, president of the Wilson and Toomer Fertilizer Company of Jacksonville, and Frank W. Crisp, field manager for the same company, selected Davenport as the site for a grove and community development. They formed the Holly Hill Grove and Fruit Company. They brought hundreds of people from all parts of the country to see the groves. Starting with only a forty-acre tract, the demand for groves became so great that the Holly Hill Groves grew in acreage by leaps and bounds, until today they are known throughout the nation and cover a territory of 5,000 acres.

The groves gave impetus to the growth of the town. New families, who first came as visitors, came and built homes and made this community their year-around home.

The population grew from 140 in 1920 to 440 in 1925 and the 1928 estimate is placed at 800, while the country adjacent to Davenport claims some 200 to 300 additional inhabitants.

Shortly after the Holly Hill Groves were started, the community builders visioned a city. Stiles and Van Kleek, nationally known city planners, were called into consultation and instead of allowing Davenport to develop in a haphazard manner, the town was scientifically planned and platted. Zoning restrictions provided three distinct sections, namely, residential, commercial and industrial. Over 275 acres of the city plat allowed for parks, together with 16 lakes. Streets were laid out with the utmost forethought for the future growth of the city.

Sites for public and civic buildings were allocated. Plans were perfected for street paving, storm sewers, city lights, white way system, municipal water works and extended telephone system. All of these improvements have since been installed and built.

Looking to the future, the city plan was designed with the purpose of providing for a population of 30,000.

As provided in the section of the city plan for parks, the first nine holes of the Holly Hill golf course, as designed and built by Stiles and Van Kleek, was finished in 1924. The second nine holes, now making one continuous 18-hole golf course, was first put into play during the winter of 1927-1928.

Forest Park, heretofore known as a jungle of entrancing beauty, located adjacent to the city on the north and forming a part of the present 18-hole golf course, was incorporated in the system of parks and now provides one of the most interesting tropical parks of the state.

The community builders laid particular stress on home building. As a result, nearly fifty new residences of modern type and construction have been built in the last few years. Visitors to Davenport, impressed with the idea of home building, were attracted by the beauty of the home sites, embodying a plan of beautification and 21 orange and grapefruit trees on each site.

The sawmill operations in Davenport during the early days, had almost completely denuded the community of trees. When the city planners were busy on the plat, they included a complete plan of beautification. As a result, thousands of Australian Silk Oaks were propagated in the Holly Hill Nurseries and planted along the streets and avenues. Palms and shrubs also added their touch of tropical beauty to the community highways as the plan of beautification was carried out.

In 1926 the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad completed a handsome passenger and freight station at a cost of $11,000. In 1927 a city hall of Spanish and American architecture was built at a cost of $20,000. Three modern business blocks were built, the Miller Building in 1925 at a cost of $25,000; the Brenner Block in 1916 at a cost of $30,000, and The Mart in 1927 at a cost of $22,000.

In the summer of 1928, the Holly Hill Fruit Products, Incorporated, a cooperative citrus fruit packing organization, owned by the individual owners of Holly Hill Groves, erected its first unit of a packing house at a cost of $30,000. The plant was equipped with the latest type of citrus packing machinery. It is located along the Atlantic Coast Line railroad at Pine street. The concern and packing house resulted from the increasing production of the Holly Hill Groves.

An increasing number of winter visitors popularized the Holly Hill Inn, the resort hotel of this community, which has grown from a four-room affair in 1920 to 26 rooms in 1928, with the addition of twelve 4-room cottages, which were built in 1925. They were equipped with adjoining bath and modernly furnished. Apartment houses and winter cottages take their place in caring for the growing winter population.

The first newspaper issued in Davenport was known as *The Davenport Messenger*. It was first issued in 1912 and operated on a weekly basis until 1914, with C. C. Beatty as editor. The printing was done at Lakeland and about 500 copies

were issued each edition. The paper was discontinued by its first owners, the Florida Development Company, when they closed their office. After this, the Bell Land Company issued the paper monthly for a period of about ten months with C. A. Parrish as editor, when it ceased publication.

On July 17, 1925, the *Davenport Times* made its first appearance as a bi-weekly newspaper, with W. S. Allen, as editor and publisher. The owners include a small group of local business men headed by Frank W. Crisp. Up to this writing the paper is being issued regularly with a circulation of 1800 copies each issue. It has been printed by the *Kissimmee Valley Gazette* of Kissimmee, ever since the first issue.

Among the early white settlers who are now living in Davenport, are: E. T. Hitchcock, T. J. McKnight, James E. Bowen, Silas E. Bowen, John L. Schmidt, A. S. Huffman, G. Klink, H. T. Nafziger, J. Roehlk, H. E. Swarts, A. Harrington, Henry Roehlk, R. I. Mainland, Frank W. Crisp, Mrs. C. C. Dent, Mrs. Anne Ingram, Mrs. Sadie Howe, Mrs. V. D. Adair, and Peter Jordan.

Chapter IX.

HAINES CITY

Haines City came into existence with the advent of the railroad in 1883. The locality seems originally to have been called Clay Cut. The promoters, and presumably the owners of the site, were William Leadwith, John M. Bryan, D. B. Stewart, J. D. Wofford, and Harrison Jones. F. J. Hinson (who was called the South Florida town-builder), is considered the founder of the town—that is, the parties named entered into a contract with him to plat the town-site, allowing him one-half the lots. This was in 1884. A year later, in 1885, "Old Timer," writing in the *Haines City Herald,* states that there was a depot, a sawmill, three general stores and a drug store. James Flye had one of the first houses, as did Harrison Jones, S. M. Hodgman, Nicholas Graddick, A. B. Stroud, and a Mr. Wood, whose house was on Lake Eva. Harrison Jones donated lots on which was built a two-story school house. In 1887 there were 37 pupils enrolled.

There seems to have been a newspaper almost before there was a town, as in 1885 the Times Publishing Co. was issuing the *Haines City Times,* with S. W. Pritchard as editor. Apparently the publication was short-lived.

Haines City was named for Colonel Haines, an official of the South Florida railroad. There is a story that there was difficulty in getting the railroad to stop its trains at this point, and the tactful act of naming it for this official enlisted his good offices, and resulted in the establishment of the station.

J. I. Wilson came to Haines City in 1884, and he was for many years an active booster. L. W. Yarnall was also one of the early residents. Pat Bannon homesteaded in that section in 1893. The following year a part of his orange trees and his house were destroyed by fire.

"Old Timer," who is quoted in the foregoing, states that the freeze of 1894-95 caused Haines City to be virtually abandoned, hardly a dozen families remaining. There is some reason to believe that the exodus, which may have been gradual, was in progress before the freeze, for at the general election in 1894 only three votes, besides those of the inspectors, were cast in the Haines City precinct. Also, in 1894, there is found an item in a Bartow newspaper to the effect that a general store was needed at Haines City, it being thought that there was business enough in that locality to make such an enterprise pay. Shortly afterwards, H. A. Parker went there from Bartow and opened a general stock of goods. Mr. Parker also ran a hotel in connection with his store.

In September, 1894, Haines City had its first burial in four years. Lewis Crane, first settler on Lake Hamilton Island, after it was abandoned by the Indians, came into Haines City, in the last stages of consumption, and died next morning. There was no cemetery, and the deceased was buried on lands of E. L. Scott.

Dr. A. B. Young and A. B. Stroud installed telephones in 1894, the first in that section.

H. D. Allison, who was an active grower there for many years, located in

that vicinity in 1895. Tomatoes were largely grown in the Haines City section during this period. Niagara grapes were also produced on a commercial scale.

For many years J. I. Wilson was correspondent at Haines City for the county papers—and a good and faithful one. In March, 1896, he writes *The Courier-Informant*: "If you fail to get a letter from here next week, it will be on account of no tomato wraps to write it on. Paper is scarce up here." Mr. Wilson joined in the exodus to Miami in 1899, following the completion of Flagler's railroad to that point, and eventually became a wealthy man. His death occurred not long since.

Judge C. A. Boswell performed the first marriage of his official career at Haines City on March 8, 1897, when he united Mr. John H. Crane and Miss Hariett E. Johnson.

A. B. Stroud was for many years agent and postmaster at Haines City. In 1899 he was transferred to Seville, and Mr. James Goodale was appointed postmaster.

The Seminole Palm Co. has been an interesting and somewhat important industry at Haines City. It produced ornamental palms, leaves, etc., treating the plants so they were permanently preserved. Shipments were made to many foreign countries, as well as to points all over the United States. H. E. Robinson, who was general manager of the plant, died in November, 1902. The enterprise is owned by L. S. Moore, who started it at Davenport a quarter of a century ago, and after operating there a couple of years, it was moved to Haines City, where it continued to flourish.

Whatever the reason or combination of reasons, Haines City seems to have languished for a good many years, many people having abandoned their holdings and moved away, their property reverting to the State for taxes. Malloy & Miller, naval stores operators, located there in 1903, and this brought some industrial prosperity. People were attracted by the fine character of the country, but were unable to buy property satisfactorily, owing to the fact that the lands were held by the State. About 1906 or 1907, F. W. Ohlinger and others set about redeeming the properties, securing tax deeds from the State and warranty deeds from the original owners; and they were thus able to put the town lots and other lands on the market. It is said that one owner cheerfully deeded to these parties 150 lots for $50, so it will be seen that there was not a great deal of optimism at the time relative to the future of Haines City. "From this time," quoting from "Old Timer" again, "things began to look upward. Malloy & Miller and J. W. Sample purchased a site and built quite a respectable hotel in 1910. Then came O. L. Huie, from Wisconsin, and purchased two lots in 1911, where the Park Hotel now stands, for $75. Two adjoining lots, bought for the same price, were held until 1922, and sold for $7,500. This is where the Growers' Commercial Bank now stands. About this time the Ohlinger cement house was built. These few improvements seemed to stimulate others. The Haines City nurseries were established. J. W. Sample and his brothers went into the real estate business, and they accomplished a great deal of good work for the whole community. They were instrumental in bringing a fine class of people from Kansas, who were enterprising and added much to the efforts others had made and were making."

The building of a branch railroad from Haines City through the Ridge section added to the activity of the community, but even at this stage there did not seem to be any adequate vision on the part of the residents as to the future of the place; for about that time a mass meeting of the property owners was called, which resulted in a decision to cut down the width of many of the streets—some to one-half the original width—and to eliminate many other streets. In some instances several blocks were combined into one, making the area available for orange groves. This was done up to within one block of what might be supposed to be the business center, and to within two blocks of the depot. This action was taken by the leading citizens of the town.

So we find a statement that, "in 1914, the town-site of Haines City consisted of vacant lots, laid off in rows, with a sand road between, and a few frame buildings." By 1916, however, there seems to have been considerable progress, for the *Haines City Herald,* established in June of that year, presents the following contrasting picture: "Today the same town site is a beautiful little city, with magnificent brick and stone buildings. Lining Sixth street are four large, brick buildings, a concrete and a frame building. On Ingraham avenue two beautiful brick buildings are located. Across the tracks are two stone buildings, one of them two stories in height. A new ice plant is being planned, and machinery being ordered; a new brick packing plant and a four-story grapefruit juice factory are in the latter stages of completion. Haines City boasts more automobiles than any city in the State, according to population; a band of twenty pieces; two enterprising Women's Clubs; public library building; fine system of clay streets; and a newspaper." Much of this growth was probably due to the efforts of a Chamber of Commerce, which was organized in September, 1915, with the following officers: J. W. Sample, president; J. R. Yale, vice-president; F. M. Long, secretary-treasurer. The State Bank of Haines City had been organized in 1913, with Arthur E. Donegan, president; J. T. Miller, vice-president, and C. C. Young, cashier.

The "Monday Study Club" was organized in 1914, to secure a library building. In 1916 the Club had built and paid for the library building, opposite the union station, which provided reading rooms and a place for the Club meetings. "Leisure Lodge" was the name given to the building. It was dedicated June 3, 1916. The officers at the time were: Mrs. Rosalie Yale, president; Mrs. Esther Smith, vice-president; Esther Angle, secretary; Leila Randall, treasurer.

The greatest stimulus the community of Haines City had received, came in 1920, when Isaac Van Horn came to the city and associated with him a number of the livest citizens in a program of development and improvement that carried the community forward to a point beyond the dreams of the most pronounced optimists. Mr. Van Horn's associates were D. B. Ohlinger, Jedd R. Yale, C. G. Somers, J. F. Angle, W. T. Mathis, C. C. Young, and J. T. Miller, their purpose being the development of an industrial district for locating wholesale, distributing and manufacturing institutions. A large tract of land suitable for such development was purchased, and trackage, terminals, etc., provided.

In 1920 a contract for $60,000 worth of street paving was awarded. By March, 1921, this paving was progressing rapidly; Marquis & Leach let the contract for a modern motion picture house; a waterworks system was being planned;

and a bond issue of $16,000 for the new school building was carried by a vote of 34 to 0. On February 28, 1922, a bond issue of $75,000 was voted as follows: $50,000 for waterworks, $15,000 for sewers and $10,000 for a fire department. Over three miles of pipe lines for the water system was provided for, as was also a modern septic tank for disposal of sewerage, and a fire truck with pumping outfit, chemical engine and hose wagon.

In 1924, the Chamber of Commerce employed a paid secretary, M. Ted Jacobs assuming the duties of that position on July 7th.

In January, 1925, the Commission-Manager form of government was adopted, the first commissioners being H. D. Corwine, Eugene Bryan and Lisle W. Smith. Eugene Bryan was mayor-commissioner.

Quoting again from "Old Timer," we present this picture of the modern Haines City: "The A. C. L. recently built a new station, which is a little beauty, and have beautified its surroundings. A park, between the business street and the depot, was taken in charge by the ladies, who have added a Leisure House, in which there is a fair library, and where all are welcome to come and wait and rest. The Dixie Highway runs through the town; and the Lee and Jackson Highway, toward Lakeland and Tampa, and the Scenic Highway, toward Lake Wales, Frostproof and Sebring, intersect the Dixie Highway here. Also, the Moore Haven branch of the A. C. L. Railway connects here with the main line. The surrounding country is planted in orange and grapefruit groves, and there are millions of dollars invested in this business in this locality, which has no superior in the production of citrus fruits. The city has its own waterworks, storm and sewerage system, regular up-to-date fire department, paved streets, sidewalks and large park grounds, two fine school buildings, etc." In addition to all these improvements, Haines City has a magnificent new hotel—the Polk, erected at a cost of $500,000. Altogether it has far surpassed the expectations of the earlier citizens, and the city seems destined to still greater growth and prosperity.

Haines City Newspapers.—Haines City had a newspaper almost coincident with the birth of the community, the *Haines City Times* having been in existence as early as 1885. In "existence" is probably a correct expression of the circumstances, for how it could exist in such a time and place is a mystery. However, it seems to have lived for two years or more, as there is mention found of it in 1887. S. W. Pritchard was the editor, and he must have been optimistic and resourceful.

For many years thereafter Haines City neither needed or possessed a newspaper. But with the period of progress setting in about 1916, the village presented a field sufficiently inviting to attract an optimistic newspaper man; and in June of that year Orville A. Porter, who had been connected with the *Lake Wales Highlander,* came to Haines City and started *The Herald* as a weekly paper. No plant was installed, the printing being done by the *Bartow Courier-Informant,* and that paper bought *The Herald* in 1917. In December of the same year H. W. Schimpf purchased *The Herald* and established the first newspaper plant in Haines City. About a year later Mr. Schimpf sold *The Herald* to M. M. Lee, of Winter Haven, and M. J. Lee became editor and publisher. First as a weekly, then as a daily, *The Herald* has been splendidly conducted under Mr. Lee's management, and has given its community the best of newspaper service.

Chapter X.

LAKE WALES

In April, 1911, a statement appeared in a Bartow newspaper, from a Winter Haven correspondent, that "A. C. Nydegger, the civil engineer and surveyor of Winter Haven, has been engaged to lay out a new town and site for a new colony on Lake Wales." The project was inaugurated by the Lake Wales Land Company, composed of E. C. Stuart, C. L. Johnson, G. V. Tillman, B. K. Bullard and M. Sessoms. Lake Wales existed at that time only as an idea.

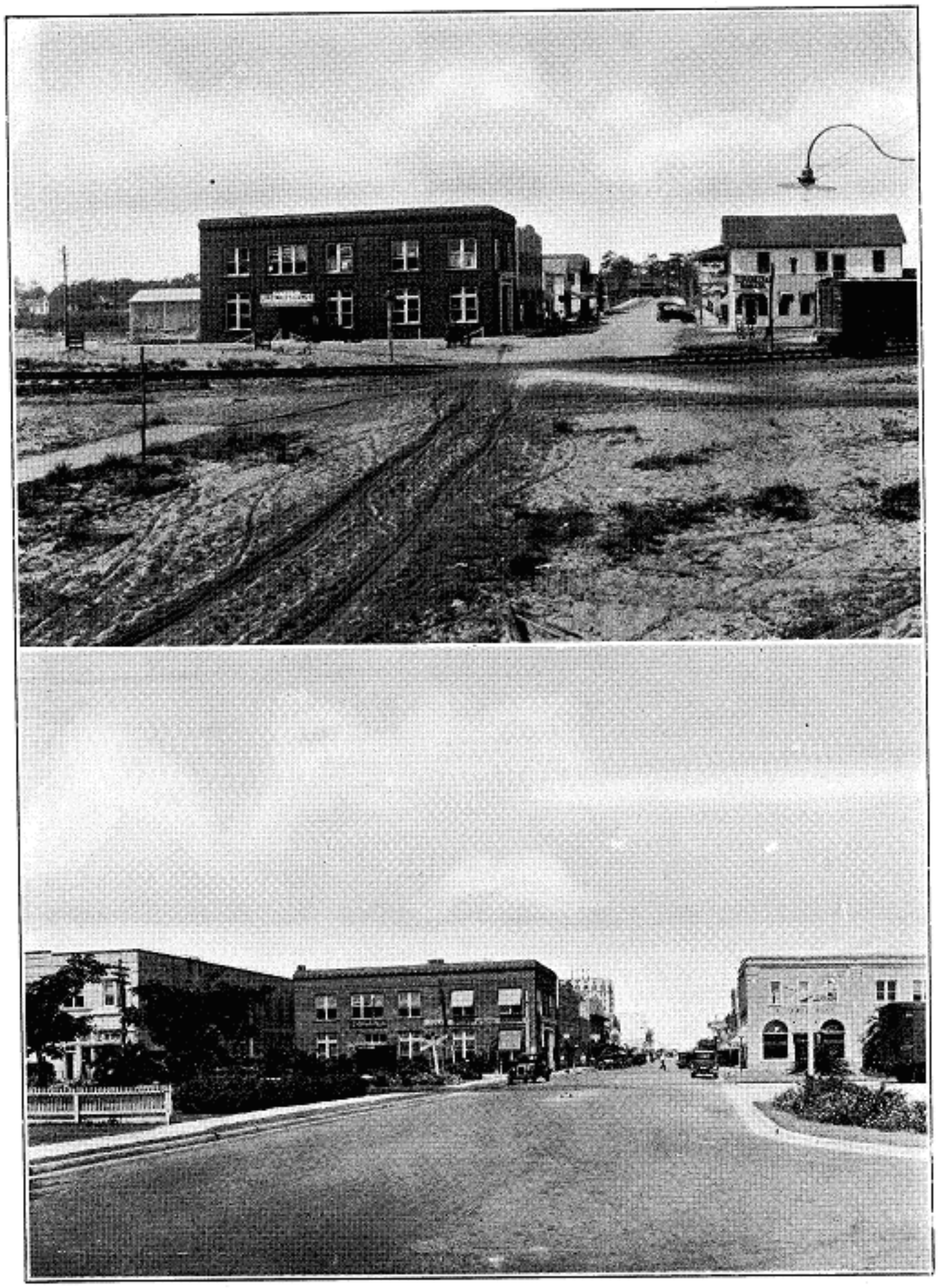
The promoters set about to lay the foundations for a real city. Substantial improvements were provided, a hotel was built, and ice factory established, and throughout the early stages of the community's growth they made possible conveniences for which other places had to wait for years. It is said that when the ice factory opened for business there were but two customers to patronize it, but the builders of Lake Wales were looking to the future. Likewise, an electric plant was installed before the population justified it, but it grew to such proportions that eventually it furnished lights to the Ridge towns from Davenport to Avon Park.

The first business house was a store conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Parker, who had living quarters above the store. The Parkers were passengers on the first train to run through Lake Wales. Their store, the Hotel Wales—built by Tate Bros., of Bartow—and the small railroad station, comprised the finished buildings in Lake Wales late in 1912. The A. R. P. church was in course of construction, as was also what was called the "Boarding House," later the Ridge Hotel; and a bungalow adjoining the church was nearing completion. At this time—in October, 1912—T. L. Wetmore and N. E. Stewart, with their wives, arrived, being probably the first newcomers from outside the county. They were the first guests of the Hotel Wales, and then took up temporary residence, until a house could be built for them, in the bungalow, mention of which has been made, and which then was really the only residence in the town. George Wetmore and Sam Mitchell had joined them in the meantime, bringing Mr. T. L. Wetmore's auto through the country from Lakeland, where it had been unloaded. This was the only auto nearer Lake Wales than Bartow, and as there were no roads leading to the town, there were some thrilling experiences in "navigating" the machine through the woods.

Mail was received three times a week from Bartow, Marion Buxton bringing it on horseback. This arrangement was in effect for several months, and it was a source of much satisfaction when finally the mail was brought daily by the train. T. J. Parker was the postmaster.

J. Walker Pope was the pioneer real estate dealer, having his office in the building that is now occupied by Lake Wales' excellent newspaper, *The Highlander.*

The first religious service held in Lake Wales was in the hotel of that name, on January 19, 1913, Rev. N. E. Smith, of Bartow, preaching the sermon on the occasion. The hotel was used as a place of worship until the fall of 1913, when



Upper—A Scene in Lake Wales in 1918.
Lower—Same Scene in 1928.

the A. R. P. church was completed. The lot, building and furnishings of this church were donated by E. C. Stuart. The organization of the church took place on June 4, 1914, there being 25 members. A. C. Thulberry was elected elder.

The first school opened in 1913 with eleven pupils. Miss Maude Blackburn was teacher, and she continued to teach through several terms. In 1917 a fine school building was erected, and shortly thereafter a Junior High School. At this time Lake Wales' schools are in fine condition and splendidly equipped.

B. K. Bullard was among the first merchants. Mr. Minnis put up a concrete store building in 1914, and at the time it was predicted that "our little town is going to be on the map for sure when the Seaboard reaches it. The grading forces have reached Lake Wales." Another concrete building was erected by T. J. Parker about the same time.

The first bank in Lake Wales was opened in February, 1913. It was operated under the name of T. J. Parker & Co., Mr. Parker being cashier.

What was described as "Lake Wales' first real calamity" occurred on the night of October 5th, 1914, when "the whole roof of the livery barn" was discovered to be on fire. The city seems to have survived this calamity.

In 1914, "everybody met at the postoffice and waited outside while the postmaster read all the postal cards. In the evening the citizens all met the passenger train, and excitement ran high if a single passenger alighted. This was another social center, where the citizens met and visited." At that date the Seaboard had not reached Lake Wales; the only public buildings were the ice plant, the power plant, and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church; the only houses erected were those of W. A. Varn, R. N. Jones, A. C. Thulberry, C. L. Johnson, G. V. Tillman, B. K. Bullard, S. B. Curtis, and the J. A. Caldwell house; the Hotel Wales was the scene of the social affairs of the community; Park avenue was the only business street, and on it was located the Jones Hardware Co., while at the intersection of Park and the highway there was a large two-story frame building, in which there was the postoffice, the bank, Anderson's drug store, and a notion department store, while B. K. Bullard conducted a department store in a one-story brick building. J. B. Briggs and A. B. Canfield were also building residences, and the Ridge Hotel was nearing completion, and was first occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Pugh.

E. C. Stuart and associates decided to erect a two-story brick bank building, and the State Bank of Lake Wales was organized in May, 1915. The capital stock was $25,000; E. C. Stuart was president, A. C. Thulberry was vice-president, John G. Sessoms was cashier. The bank building was erected later in the year, J. F. Townsend being the contractor.

Dr. Griffin, who moved there from Haines City, and Dr. R. E. Wilhoyte were Lake Wales' first physicians.

The A. R. P. church, the first in Lake Wales, dedicated its building May 24, 1914. Dr. G. D. Phillips, of Chester, S. C., preached the dedication sermon.

A "small fire department" was organized in December, 1914.

A new telephone exchange was installed in 1914. O. A. Hill was in charge. The local telephone plant was acquired by the Peninsular Telephone Co. in 1921, R. R. Snyder being made manager.

The first train from Lake Wales through to Tampa over the Seaboard Air Line Railway was operated April 5, 1915.

A brick double building was erected in 1915, by Rhodes & Varn.

A crate mill was established in April, 1916, by C. L. Morrison and J. O. Densford, of Fort Meade.

The Lake Wales Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was organized in October, 1916. Rev. J. H. York was pastor; C. L. Johnson, T. J. Parker, W. F. Smith, trustees; C. L. Johnson, T. J. Parker and R. M. Jones, stewards. An adequate church building, a six-room Sunday School Annex, and a parsonage, were erected.

The First Baptist church was organized July 23, 1916, with 25 members. Rev. S. J. Kenney was called as the first pastor. O. G. Tillman served as clerk, H. M. Frazier as Superintendent of the Sunday School, and Mrs. J. F. Townsend as pianist. A splendid church building was erected at a cost of $30,000 in 1923, the corner-stone being laid July 6th, and Rev. J. A. Holt, of Arcadia, being speaker of the occasion.

The Legislature of 1917 passed a bill incorporating the city of Lake Wales. The first city officers were: M. R. Anderson, mayor; George Schwantke, George Wetmore, B. K. Bullard, L. L. Barnes, councilmen; M. M. Ebert, clerk; C. L. Johnson, assessor; S. J. Abernathy, collector.

Lake Wales has an excellent library, the result of the efforts of the Woman's Club, which continues to maintain it. The movement was started by the Club about 1917, and had very modest beginnings, each of the club members being asked to donate one or more books. A fine collection of books, available to residents or tourists, is now maintained.

Lake Wales Lodge No. 242, F. & A. M., was instituted and had its first regular meeting June 1, 1916. On June 18 a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge with the following officers: George E. Wetmore, W. M.; M. M. Ebert, S. W.; H. M. Frazier, J. W.; R. E. Wilhoyte, secretary; O. G. Tillman, S. D.; J. G. Allred, J. D.; and B. P. Kelley, tyler.

The Woman's Club of Lake Wales was one of the earliest, as well as one of the most active, of the city's organizations. It grew out of a "thimble party," held at the Hotel Wales in May, 1914, to which all the ladies in the village were invited. Those present were: Mrs. T. J. Parker, Mrs. Lewis H. Parker, Mrs. C. L. Johnson, Misses Irene and Maude Johnson, Mrs. A. C. Thulberry, Miss Margaret Thulberry, Mrs. R. M. Jones, Mrs. Guy Pugh, Mrs. S. B. Curtis, Mrs. Clicker, Mrs. C. D. Ahl, Mrs. C. C. Thulberry, Mrs. Marshall Nidy, Mrs. Frank Thomas, Mrs. George Wetmore, Mrs. Oscar Hill, and Mrs. T. L. Wetmore. The organization was first called the Merry-Go-Round Club, the name later being changed to the Mutual Aid Society. In October, 1916, it became the Civic League, with Mrs. R. N. Jones as first president, and Mrs. J. T. Rhodes, secretary. The Woman's Club, affiliated with the Florida Federation, was the final development. Presidents of the organization besides those mentioned, have been Mrs. M. M. Ebert, Mrs. J. M. Stritmater and Mrs. Irvin Yarnell. The Woman's Club has accomplished much for the beautification and general improvement of Lake Wales.

Lake Wales' white way, extending from the Scenic Highway to First Street, a distance of 850 feet, was lighted for the first time on the night of June 9, 1923. There were twenty-eight standards. Jesse G. Rhodes was given much of the credit for the accomplishment of this improvement.

A Lodge of Odd Fellows was instituted in June, 1923, with 20 members.

The asphalt highway between Lake Wales and Hesperides was opened for traffic in November, 1925. On this nine-mile stretch of road is located the largest individually owned orange grove in the world—the 2,000-acre Temple orange grove of August Hecksher.

Approximately one million dollars was the sum represented by Lake Wales' building operations for the year 1925. During the same period over half million dollars was expended at Mountain Lake for something in excess of fifty new homes in that magnificent development, to say nothing of other improvements. Ten years earlier the site of this beauty spot was raw Florida land, F. S. Ruth being mainly responsible for the marvelous transformation.

The Lake Wales Rotary Club was organized in November, 1925. The first officers were: J. E. Worthington, president; L. H. Kramer, vice-president; C. E. Noyes, secretary; J. F. Dubois, treasurer, and C. C. Thulberry, sergeant-at-arms.

In the State census of 1925 Lake Wales showed a gain in population for five years of 245 per cent., the greatest gain during that period made by any Florida city. In 1920 the population was 796; in 1925 it had increased to 2,747.

Lake Wales is the center of numerous fine developments, principal among these being Mountain Lake, a place of wonderful beauty, where Edward W. Bok, August Heckscher, Irving T. Bush, E. T. Bedford, and about forty other internationally known men of wealth and position have winter homes. Highland Park is a $3,000,000 development, fostered by Irving Yarnell. Ridge Manor, West Lake Wales, Templeton and East Lake Wales are high-class residence communities, composed mostly of winter homes of persons with grove interests. The groves are the backbone of Lake Wales' prosperity, it being estimated that in the territory tributary to the city there are 23,000 acres of citrus plantings, six large packing houses being engaged in handling the fruit. Two of the largest groves in Florida —Mammoth Grove, and the grove of August Heckscher—are included in this area.

Like other Polk county communities, Lake Wales has done much building and improving in the past two or three years, a notable addition to the city being the erection of the splendid Dixie-Walesbilt hotel, which opened January 1, 1927.

Lake Wales Newspapers.—The first newspaper at Lake Wales was established very early in the life of the town, being published by F. M. Thomas, and the first issue being dated February 21, 1914. The paper was called the *Lake Wales News*. It was described as "about the size of a sheet of music paper," and was short-lived.

In March, 1916, the *Lake Wales Highlander* was established by A. R. Nason. In September, 1918, Harry M. Gann, who came to the State from Minneapolis, bought the paper and very ably conducted it until his death, which occurred late in 1920. On December 3, 1920, J. E. Worthington became the owner, later associating with him Tom and Rebecca Caldwell, the newspaper now being the property of the Highlander Publishing Co. It remained a weekly until January 5, 1926, when it entered the semi-weekly field. Under the management of Mr. Worthington *The Highlander* has stood for all that is good and progressive and for the highest standards of ethical journalism.

In 1926 the *Lake Wales News* was established by O. A. Brice. It is a clean and newsy paper, and shows evidences of success.

Chapter XI.

FROSTPROOF

The name Frostproof was originally applied to the Lake Clinch section, formerly known as Fort Clinch. The name is said to have been given by the cowboys who herded their cattle in this highland lake region during the winter months, and who would note the absence of frost there even in the coldest spells. This was particularly noticeable during the severe cold that prevailed through Florida during 1894-5 when the damage at Frostproof was very slight, and the fortunate growers who lived there shipped fruit the following year, for which they received very high prices. This section has always been noted for its adaptability to citrus culture, and a splendid industry has been developed, seven large packing houses being necessary to handle the large crop of superb fruit.

Notwithstanding its great natural attractions, lack of transportation facilities made development very slow, and for many years only a few settlers enjoyed the unsurpassed advantages of the section. The Carson family, the family of V. P. Simmons, "Uncle Wash" Hendry, and B. M. Hampton were among the earliest on the scene. It is claimed that "Uncle Wash" Hendry built the first house at Frostproof. B. M. Hampton was called the "Wit of the Sand Hills" in 1898. The Ohlingers were also among the "first families."

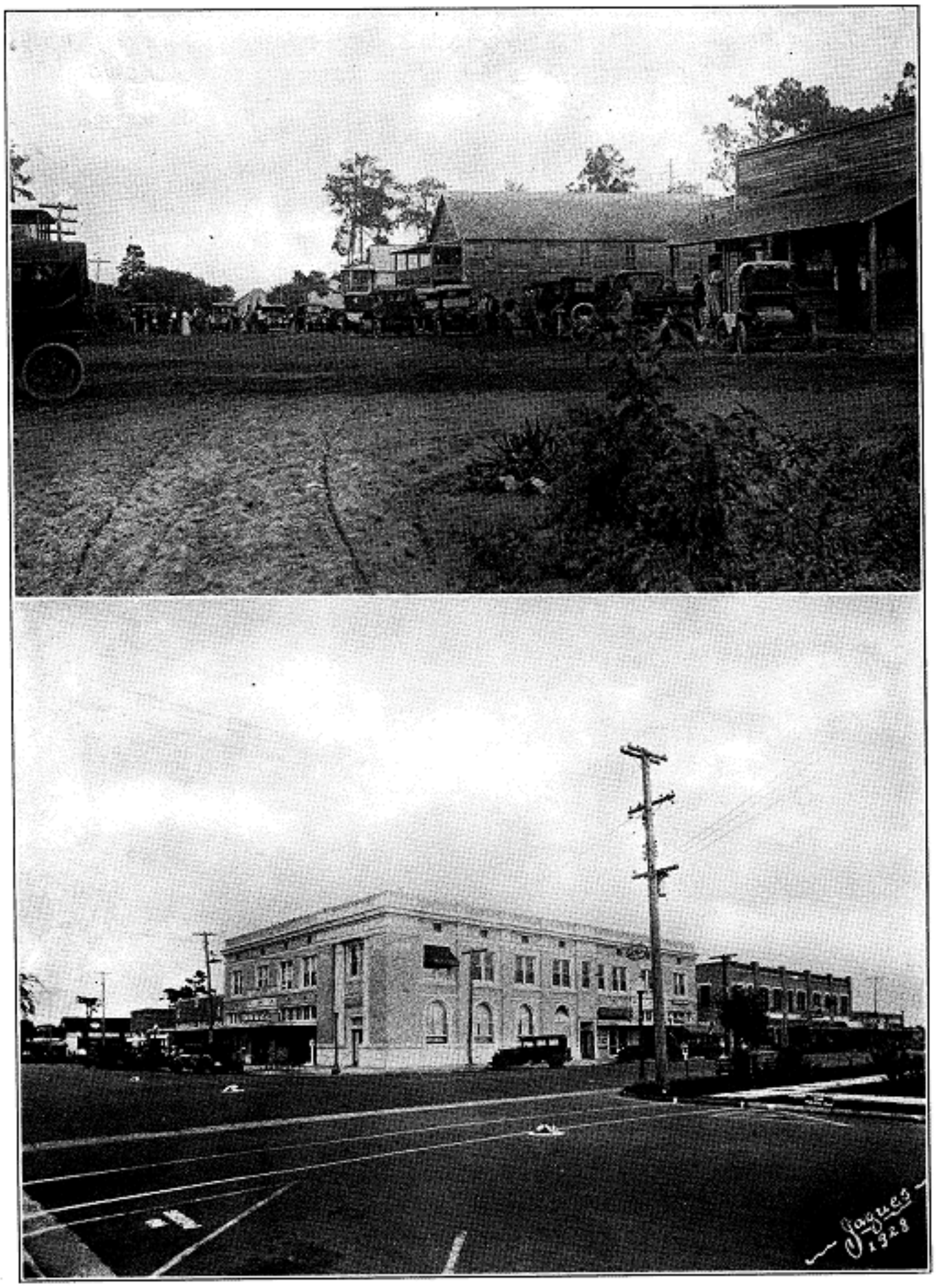
The Carson brothers, Joe W. and Munsey B., were for a long period indefatigable boosters for their section, proving its wonderful fitness for citrus culture by producing oranges and grapefruit of superb quality. Their exhibits at the World's Fair in Chicago, the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and the Charleston Exposition, were invaluable advertisements for the whole State of Florida.

W. H. Overocker was an early postmaster, the mail being brought in by rural carrier from Fort Meade, 19 miles distant. The carrier would make the trip sometimes by bicycle, sometimes by team, and later by auto. The postoffice was the social center, and as the time for the mail to arrive drew nigh, the whole population would repair to the office and enjoy an hour of social converse.

Charles Barrington Coleman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Coleman, was born June 25, 1904, being the third baby born in the community. The record as to the first and second child was not available.

There is a tradition that a sea serpent, or a lake serpent, used to haunt Lake Clinch. The Indians many years ago insisted there was an immense serpent in this lake. In 1907 residents of Frostproof declared they had seen the monster, and that it must be thirty feet long—this, too, before post-prohibition liquor was known.

In 1911 railroad construction work was nearing the settlement and a citizen of the place commented thus: "Strange to say, negroes are becoming a common sight in Frostproof. Before this, they were not allowed to sleep here more than one night."



Upper—Good Roads Meeting, Frostproof, 1915.
Lower—Same Scene, 1928.

On October 1, 1911, Railroad Commissioners Dunn and Blitch, visited Frostproof in company with Supt. Morton Riddle, of the A. C. L. Railroad, and the location of the depot, 150 feet from the well-known Indian mound, was definitely decided upon. Deputy County Surveyor J. W. Tillis at once started surveying and platting the town-site.

Frostproof's first telephone was placed in Carson Bros'. office, October 6, 1911, and was connected with Fort Meade.

The Haines City extension of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad reached Frostproof January 5, 1912. A correspondent of the *Lakeland Evening Telegram* furnished that paper with the following account of this notable event in Frostproof's history:

"Frostproof has a railroad. For 25 years the first family of this community lived here in faith, waiting for this year of 1912, when a railroad should open up this territory, connecting it with the civilized world. Two other families followed this first one after six years, and one by one the number increased until now almost 250 people reside here, and others spend the winters here.

"Eighteen miles from any railroad, and with no certain date when one would reach us, there has been planted in this country a thousand acres of oranges and grapefruit. Where else on the citrus dome has such faith and enterprise shown forth? When Rev. Carson, the first settler, brought his family here, his former neighbors assured him he would soon starve out, and that they would come out and call him back to Fort Meade in time. Since then, some of these neighbors have followed the trail, and now have fine homes here, too.

"Until seven efforts to inject steel rails into the hill country, each promoter's scheme failed, although about as much local work was done on each as was required to finally build the road.

"But in telling our children and their children of the good men who have helped to make this country fit for civilized men to inhabit, we should never forget the names of those men who have labored and lost.

"The 5th day of January, 1912, was the brightest day in the history of Frostproof. The first passenger train that rolled into this depot arrived a little later than was scheduled, being 12 o'clock on Friday last. The citizens of Frostproof and vicinity were out to meet the train, and a war-whoop went up through the forest and groves, as the locomotive screamed us a signal of its arrival.

"On this train were many passengers, among whom was noted, E. O. Flood, of Lakeland, who has done much for Frostproof and the railroad."

It took the people a little time to adjust themselves to the new order of things, for the Frostproof correspondent of the *Bartow Courier-Informant* furnishes this item, Feb. 9, 1912: "The quietness of this part of Polk County is entirely broken up now, and we are resigned to fate's civilizing influences. For instance, on Monday morning, this once unbroken stillness was disturbed by the combined roar of a marine engine, an automobile, an ice plant and a locomotive. There are three sawmills near here, but above the other noises we could not tell what they were doing. A very fine depot now occupies the old turkey blind where Uncle Wash Hendry has killed a barnyard full of turkeys in years gone by."

There was much building and business activity immediately after the advent of the railroad. A hotel was opened June 1, 1912. A Methodist church was completed in September of the same year. A bank was established, first known as the McCormick Bank, but bought by E. E. Skipper in the latter part of 1912.

Skipper & Co. put up a bank building in the fall of 1914. J. C. Burleigh also put up a new brick building about the same time.

Frostproof won the pennant during the World War as the most efficient town in Red Cross work in Florida, in proportion to population.

The Frostproof State Bank was organized in 1915. The Citizens Bank, John Maxcy, president, was established in 1920.

A Board of Trade, under the leadership of Arthur P. Cody, has been an important factor in the growth of Frostproof.

One of the assets of Frostproof is its excellent newspaper, *The Highland News,* which was established in 1916 by J. Arney Hendricks, who had moved the plant and equipment from Beaufort, Ga. Mr. Hendricks edited and published the paper, with the aid of his family, using an old hand-power Simplex press and very meager equipment. P. A. Ruhl, who at the time was publishing the *Sebring White Way,* purchased *The News* in 1918, and conducted it until 1920 when his son, Guy P. Ruhl, returned from France and was discharged from the army. Young Mr. Ruhl took charge of the publication and has since conducted it ably and successfully. The paper was at first published in a fertilizer warehouse in the rear of the office of R. W. A. Duncan, but in 1923 Mr. Ruhl purchased a location and erected the brick building that now houses the plant. Instead of the old hand-power presses and other obsolete equipment, there is now a model 8 linotype, up-to-date presses, and other modern equipment, all electrically driven. Assisting Mr. Ruhl in the conduct of the paper are Annie B. Ruhl, social editor; Angie E. Jacques, bookkeeper; George M. LaRa, mechanical foreman; Culp Dottery and Elton Rountree. "Pa" and "Ma" Ruhl, beloved by all newspaper folks of the section, have assisted from time to time in the editorial and advertising departments.

Chapter XII.

THRIVING SMALL "RIDGE" CITIES

LAKE HAMILTON

Lake Hamilton was named for the beautiful lake on which it is located, one of the largest in the State, with a shore line of 35 miles. The lake seems to have formerly been called Lake Hambleton. It was a camping place for the Indians in the time of the Indian troubles of 1854-56, and later Grover Cleveland visited and fished in it with satisfaction and success.

The community came into being in 1913. The first residence was built by William Hosmer, who also put up a store building. In December, 1913, the county school board voted $300 toward the establishment of a school, the patrons agreeing to furnish a site and all necessary expenses above $300.

The A. C. L. railroad completed a station building in April, 1914. A post-office was established in October, 1914, and L. G. Anderson was appointed post-master.

Giley & Tichnor put up a two-story building and engaged in general merchandising in August, 1914.

A Woman's Club was organized almost as early as the beginning of the town; and in 1915 a Board of Trade was functioning, with U. S. Martin, president, and H. R. Mosnat, secretary. By 1916 there were forty members.

Lake Hamilton set the pace in the matter of connecting lakes, the first project of the kind being the construction of an 800-foot canal, connecting Lake Hamilton with Lake Sara.

The first child born in the community was Jessie Louise Hamilton Denty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Denty. She was born October 13, 1914.

A band stand was built in 1915, and a concert band was organized by Mr. A. C. Roller.

There were a dozen or more buildings erected in 1915. Among those putting up residences were Messrs. Payne, Bradberry, Harvey and Davis.

A polling place was established by the County Commissioners in January, 1916. In April of that year Lake Hamilton became a money order office.

In April, 1916, there were 63 voters, the community being only three years old. The progressive character of citizenship is indicated by the vote on the big county-wide bond issue for good roads, that precinct giving 51 votes for the proposition, and none against.

The first wedding occurring in the community was that of James Coarsey and Miss Violet Pinaire, which took place April 27, 1916.

On October 4, 1916, the Ornamental League gave the contract for platting the town, R. T. Wedding securing the contract. Plans included boulevarding three lakes, beautifying the depot grounds, school grounds, etc.

The hotel at Lake Hamilton, owned by Mr. Stillwell, one of the largest in the county, was destroyed by fire on Sunday, December 9, 1917. There was no way of combating the flames. Loss was about $30,000.

The Lake Hamilton National Bank was organized in 1920. On August 1, 1924, Lake Hamilton district voted road bonds in the sum of $75,000. Several miles of clay roads through the district were built with the proceeds.

From an interesting article written by J. O. Parrish, of Auburndale, we cull the following concerning the occupation of the locality by Indians during the Seminole war of 1854-57:

An island in Lake Hamilton was the refuge of a band of Indians, about 75 in number, under the leadership of Chief Chipco. When, about 1854, the Seminoles gathered at a point a short distance northeast of Lake Okeechobee, and decided to begin anew hostilities against the whites, Chipco would not join them. His fellow-chieftains gave him ten days to come to a decision as to whether he would join them in war against the common enemy, or fight his own people. Chipco called together his followers, in number about 100, and gave them their choice as to whether they should follow him or join their red brethren in war against the whites. About 25 young braves chose the latter course; the remainder of the band, under the direction of Chipco, went various ways, assembling at a certain date on the shores of Lake Hamilton, a hundred miles or more to the north. There they made a permanent camp on a large island, which afforded them protection from their foes, who could be seen before they could reach the camp.

There was a settlement of whites at a trading post called Ichapucksassa about seven miles northeast of the present site of Plant City. Chipco frequently did the settlers good service by warning them of attacks or raids of hostile Indians. However, there was a bounty of $300 offered for every Indian brought in alive to Tampa or Fort Myers, and, while the people of Ichapucksassa were loyal to Chipco and his band, others learned of the presence of the Indians on the island, and their cupidity was aroused by the prospect of the bounty. A man named Kendrick organized a band of adventurers, who made plans to capture the Indians. With great secrecy they constructed a number of light boats and canoes and hid them in a hammock near the shores of the lake. They proposed to make their raid at early dawn, when the unsuspecting Indians would be asleep, expecting to capture the entire band of 75, and to receive $300 for each of them.

At the last moment their plans were learned by some one at Ichapucksassa, and at midnight a lone horseman left the settlement, riding through the woods and swamps to carry a warning to the Indians. Arriving on the shores of the lake, he was able to signal the Indians by means of waving a bunch of burning grass, and Chipco came silently in response, and was told of the plot to capture his band. At dawn the adventurers encircled the island only to find that the Indians had flown, and the camp deserted.

Chipco settled on the shores of Lake Pierce, known as Catfish lake, and it is said that a few old orange trees still remain to mark the location of his camps. He lived many years after the incident related, and was known and respected by many white people of the county.

The rider who conveyed the warning was William Collins, who lived for probably sixty years on his farm between Lakeland and Auburndale, dying there about fifteen years ago, at a very advanced age.

LAKE ALFRED

Lake Alfred has had more names than most communities of similar age, having been successively known as Bartow Junction, Chubb, and Fargo before it was finally given the name which it seems might have been suggested in the first place by the beautiful lake on which it is built. This fine body of water was named Lake Alfred, for Mr. Alfred Parslow, a pioneer citizen and a railroad prospector, who was associated with William Van Fleet in some railroad projects in the early eighties.

When the railroad was built from that point to Bartow it was called Bartow Junction—and we have found that it was sometimes called worse names than that, for the schedules were inconvenient for persons who wished to make connections there. They also found it uninteresting, for in 1893 it was stated that there was nothing there except a little station about 6x18 feet. There was not another house for miles around, and passengers from Bartow had to wait four hours for a northbound train. Haines City also complained of the inconvenient schedule, which necessitated spending the night in Bartow if one had to spend more than one or two hours there.

In 1900 Mr. Gilbert, agent and postmaster at Bartow Junction, resigned. A correspondent comments on this incident: "As there is only one family and six billion mosquitoes living there, the post is generally shunned." J. J. Wallace succeeded Mr. Gilbert. For a number of years there was practically no growth, but in 1910 a group of capitalists from Fargo, N. D., purchased a large tract in the locality, and the Fruitlands Co. was formed to develop it. The promoters planned wisely, selling the lands on which to make groves, and planting and caring for these groves until the owners were ready to build and take charge themselves. Because of these methods, there have been no grove failures in the Lake Alfred development, and no neglected or rundown groves. Frank C. Gardner, president of the Fruitlands Co.; Frank P. Goodman, manager, and S. F. Poole, citrus expert, have been largely responsible for the success of the development.

The town of Lake Alfred was incorporated September 15, 1913. F. W. Froemke was mayor; C. F. Jester, clerk; J. C. Cox, treasurer; D. Rowe, marshal; W. W. McCall, president of the council; M. G. Dennison, H. A. Wast, J. D. Miles, W. A. Lyon, councilmen; S. D. Adams, C. F. Jester, J. C. Cox, school board.

A program of wholesale beautification was put in operation in the spring of 1917. Old houses were moved, and golf links established; old store houses removed and parks located.

F. W. Froemke died December 29, 1917. He was one of Lake Alfred's foremost developers.

A $100,000 packing house was erected by the Lake Alfred Citrus Growers' Association in 1921. There were 3,000 acres in citrus planting in the Lake Alfred territory at the time.

In 1925 there was much building activity, both in business houses and residences. A white way system, ten miles of sidewalks, and twelve miles of paved streets, were items included in the ambitious program launched.

A wonderful transformation has been effected in Lake Alfred in recent years, and instead of being the crude, unattractive and unpromising way station of earlier times, it has become a very beautiful and progressive community. One of the finest school buildings in the State has been provided; there is an excellent hotel and a good banking institution; and orderliness and beauty have replaced the early crudity and ugliness. Men and concerns of wealth and influence have become largely interested, notably the Mexican Crude Rubber Co., which has 650 acres in citrus groves, besides large holdings of undeveloped citrus lands, and Alexander Mackay, who has also made large investments in the locality.

Lake Alfred had a newspaper in 1921—the *Lake Alfred News,* Maynard Froemke, editor, but it was published only a short time. At present it is served by one of the Smith Publishing Co.'s chain of newspapers—the *Lake Alfred Post.*

DUNDEE

Dundee was the first new town platted on the Haines City-Sebring branch, and the first depot was erected at that point. The town grew out of a development fathered in 1911 by Wm. W. Sheppard, who organized the Florida Highlands Co., with associates and friends living at Minneapolis, Minn. The holdings of this concern included about 14,000 acres of land, located on the Ridge from Lake Hamilton to Mountain Lake, or Buck lake, as it was then called. This section was probably the first large citrus land development in Polk County. On these lands they started the towns of Dundee and Starr Lake. A hotel—the Highlands Hotel—was built in 1912. It has since been remodeled and improved.

The Glen St. Mary Nursery Co. bought 900 acres of land in and around Dundee in 1912, and located their citrus nurseries there. They put out several hundred acres in nurseries and groves.

The State Bank of Dundee was organized in 1915, with R. E. Waterman, president and cashier, and C. E. Lanier, vice-president. A splendid school building has been erected, and a beautiful Community House provides a center for social activities. There is also a live Board of Trade. Being located in one of the finest citrus sections in the world, the progress of the community is chiefly associated with the development of the grove lands, which is steady and satisfactory.

BABSON PARK

Babson Park was formerly known as Crooked Lake, so named for the beautiful lake on which it is located. The Crooked Lake section has long been known as one of the loveliest and most productive in the county, but it lay dormant for a long time until "discovered" by H. E. Fairchild, a Minneapolis capitalist, who, about 1912, bought a tract of several hundred acres of land, and proceeded to develop it. His organization, known as the Southern Land Co., built a handsome Club House in 1916, and a number of fine residences overlooking the

lake, were also built. Meanwhile, E. W. Barber, a newspaper publisher of Jackson, Michigan, had made his home on the lake for many years, and had given the section much valuable publicity through letters to his own and other northern papers; and others, attracted by the charm of the location, also had established homes there.

A Crooked Lake Improvement Company was formed in 1919, composed of T. L. Wilson, H. E. Fairchild, Fred Kiser, K. H. Gerlach, J. W. Carson, I. A. Yarnell, Frank L. Cody and others.

The community had advanced to the point of incorporation, and on July 21, 1921, an election was held, ratifying a charter which had been passed by the Legislature. There were 81 resident voters at the time, and the first officials chosen were: Mayor, A. M. Davis; councilmen, M. J. Yarbrough, J. D. Coburn, W. H. Flowers, S. D. Creel, E. D. Way; clerk, R. M. Hayes; assessor, N. E. Thornhill.

In April, 1923, Roger W. Babson, the economist and statistician, purchased 400 acres on Crooked Lake, including the greater portion of the town-site, and the name of the town was changed to Babson Park. Much improvement followed, including a $60,000 packing house erected by the Babson Park Citrus Growers' Association, F. L. Cody being president, H. E. Fairchild, vice-president, and A. H. Stafford, secretary and manager. The State Bank opened in March, 1924. The development of a very high-class residential district undoubtedly will continue, and the connection of Mr. Babson with the community, it is believed, will attract others of national prominence.

Chapter XIII.

MULBERRY AND THE PHOSPHATE SECTION

How Mulberry received its name is a matter of some interest. When the railroad first extended its line to reach the immense output of the phosphate plants, there was a point convenient to the four big plants in operation in the vicinity—the Palmetto Phosphate, the Kingsford, the Bone Valley, and the Land Pebble—where there stood a large mulberry tree. It was customary to stop the trains and put off freight near this tree, and goods frequently were marked, "Put Off at the Big Mulberry Tree." When the railroad built a station and established an agency at this point, it was quite natural that it should have been called Mulberry. Later the postal authorities adopted the same name. This famous mulberry tree is still standing, having weathered the storms of many years. It has been struck by lightning once or twice, riddled with bullets frequently, and it is said that at least one negro was swung from its limbs—some say it has figured in several lynching bees. The city authorities have been giving this tree some attention in latter years, and it bids fair to remain for a long time an object of historical interest.

Before Mulberry came into existence a postoffice had been established at Kingsford, about a half-mile to the southwest. This postoffice was discontinued in November, 1897, and E. E. Webster seems to have been Mulberry's first postmaster. There is some confusion about this period, as we find a statement that a postoffice was established at Mulberry in May, 1900, John B. Potter being appointed postmaster.

L. N. Pipkin conducted the first store, and he has ever since been a very prominent factor in the business and civic life of the town. Murdaugh Bros. established a store there in 1895, J. P. Murdaugh, now tax collector of the county, being in charge.

The town of Mulberry was incorporated in February, 1901. The following were the first officials: Mayor, L. M. Ballard; aldermen, L. N. Pipkin, A. F. Fletcher, M. C. Cain, H. B. Blount and M. B. Payne; marshal, Silas Clark; clerk, John B. Potter.

By 1904 Mulberry claimed nearly 2,000 inhabitants. There were seven phosphate plants in the vicinity, employing 800 to 1,000 men, with a payroll of $10,000 a week. The town had nine general stores, a drug store and a millinery store, two meat markets and a bakery; also a gas plant, an excellent graded school and three churches.

In 1907 the Bank of Mulberry was established, with L. N. Pipkin as president, and he has ever since been the guiding force of this financial institution, which at present ranks among the strongest in the county. In the same year, E. H. Dudley came from Bartow and established the Mulberry Ice Works, an institution that has rendered splendid service. Mr. Dudley doubled the capacity of the plant in 1910. Electric lights were installed in 1908.

John B. Howe established the *Mulberry Times* in 1907, succeeded by the *Mulberry Journal* in 1908, the latter being conducted by L. Z. Overbay and R. Q. Gresham.

January 19, 1909, the new school building at Mulberry was opened, Prof. Moore presiding. The occasion was devoted to the dedication of the building, and the celebration of Lee's birthday. Rev. S. W. Lawler was speaker of the day.

The community continued to advance until in 1910 there were engaged in business the following firms—and perhaps, some others: S. Rosin & Co., I. Stalberg, R. B. White, W. G. Overstreet, H. B. Blount, Satchett & Mitchell, Payne & DeVane, Wolf Bargain Store; W. S. Yates, A. Mendelson, Whidden & Whidden, Houghton Clothing Co., Mulberry Furniture Co., W. W. Matchett, J. J. Peoples, O. C. Parrish & Co., R. L. Baker, S. E. Gibson, J. L. Miller, T. C. Coarsey, A. B. Byrd, Mrs. H. Frazier, M. J. Bass, Prairie Trading Co., W. C. Harris & Co., H. S. Babcock & Co., George Nicolopulos, Bank of Mulberry, S. Daniel.

A Masonic Lodge was instituted at Mulberry February 17, 1910. The following were the officers: J. B. Potter, W. M.; M. W. Moody, S. W.; W. C. Nabors, J. W.; Z. M. Bowden, treasurer; J. M. Damphier, secretary; J. E. Barber, chaplain; L. Silverman, S. D.; R. Houghton, J. D.; L. W. Clayton, S. S.; W. Bolden, tyler.

St. Luke's Episcopal church opened for worship in June, 1921.

The Citizens Bank was established in June, 1912. E. W. McCormick was president; L. S. Morrow, vice-president, and W. M. Mills, cashier.

Mulberry adopted municipal ownership of waterworks in 1913. L. N. Pipkin had installed a system in advance of the ability of the town to own its utilities, and the city bought his plant.

Dr. Murphy, who was mayor in 1912, resigned to become postmaster. It could not be said that the city government was extravagant at that time, as the city clerk was being paid only $100 per annum.

Dr. P. L. Goss died in France from wounds received in action in October, 1918.

Mulberry being the center of the phosphate industry, is naturally very responsive to the fluctuations of that business. When the war began in Europe the principal markets for phosphate were closed, and so remained until after the conclusion of peace, when exporting was resumed. During that period there was no great community progress; but with the close of hostilities, the industry speedily came back, and the city has been prosperous. Mulberry will always be the capital of the phosphate section, and as it is situated in the center of numerous great plants, working inexhaustible deposits, the future of the city seems to be assured. It has a splendid public school, an accredited High School, several churches, and all the improvements of an up-to-date municipality.

Mulberry Newspapers.—The Phosphate Era was the pioneer in the newspaper field at or near Mulberry, being issued at Kingsford in February, 1900. T. A. Bivins was editor and proprietor. It seems to have been short-lived.

John B. Howe had the *Mulberry Times* in 1907. The *Mulberry Journal* appeared July 2, 1908, L. Z. Overbay, editor, and R. Q. Gresham, business manager. The *Mulberry Enterprise* was established in March, 1911; the *Mulberry*

Herald was published in 1913 by Will H. Bulloch and later by Miss Georgia Beede. It suspended in August, 1914. In March, 1915, it was revived by Messrs. Furleicht & Lancaster. A company was organized and a plant of considerable proportions was installed. It apparently did very well for a while, but there were further changes, W. J. Fripp being at the helm for a time. He was succeeded by Irvin Wyatt and C. White. Early in 1926 the paper became the property of Terrill H. Smith, who organized the Smith Publishing Company, since which the business has flourished, Mr. Smith publishing in addition to the *Mulberry Press,* the *Lakeland Journal,* the *Bartow News,* the *Haines City Times,* the *Kathleen Herald,* the *Auburndale News* and the *Lake Alfred Post.* These papers are all issued from the plant of the *Mulberry Press,* and are edited and managed by the organization of the Smith Publishing Co.

Other Phosphate Points.

The thriving phosphate towns of Pierce, Brewster and Nichols, are more interesting from an industrial standpoint than from the historical angle. Each of them were brought into being by the location of a great mining plant—the American Agricultural Chemical Co., at Pierce; the American Cynamid Co. at Brewster, and the Phosphate Mining Co. at Nichols. Each of these places might properly be designated as a "Spotless Town," each being indeed a model town, with nicely laid-out streets, attractive homes, well-kept yards and lawns, excellent schools, and unusually good sanitary conditions.

Little has occurred to disturb the peaceful routine of the people occupied in this great Polk County industry. One incident, however, might be mentioned, the burning of the phosphoric acid plant of the American Cynamid plant at Brewster with a loss of $500,000, which occurred June 28, 1923.

Bradley Junction is located in the phosphate section. It came into existence as a community in 1910, and was incorporated April 25, 1912, under the name of Bradley. The following were the first officials of the town: Mayor, W. V. Ransom; councilmen, W. O. Surrency, J. D. Robinson, J. W. Collins, H. B. Pearce, and J. F. Kilpatrick; clerk, J. C. English; marshal, M. C. Turner.

Chapter XIV.

SOME SMALLER COMMUNITIES

HIGHLAND CITY

Highland City was, until recent years, known as Haskell, that being the name of the station established there when the "Pemberton Ferry" railroad was built south to Bartow. For many years it remained a quiet little village, with only the station, a general store, and one or two residences. When general real estate activities began in 1924, Haskell felt the upward urge, and began to expand. The great Hallam citrus development near by, had already been a force for improvement, and in 1925 the citizens secured authority from the Legislature and decided to incorporate, changing the name from Haskell to Highland City. The territory included in the incorporation was three square miles. The following were the first officers of the community: Mayor, O. H. Stringer; C. C. Moon, J. S. A. Walker, E. F. Miller, T. L. Fentress, and E. C. Morris, councilmen; Norman Wynn, marshal; J. A. Williams, assessor; W. A. Womble, clerk and treasurer. In 1927 a suit was brought by a number of citizens to have certain lands owned by them excluded from the corporate limits, the suit being decided in their favor, thus lessening the area of the town. A fine school has been built in late years, and an excellent and up-to-date hotel, a large packing house, and a canning plant, are additions to the business and industrial life of the community.

HOMELAND

Homeland is one of the oldest communities in the county, but there have been few incidents in its peaceful career, and little change. The writer, in conversation with an old resident of the county, asked the question: "Why is it that Homeland, with many advantages of location, has not shown more growth in all these years?" His answer was that it was because the people were too well satisfied. It impresses one who views it as the "Home Land" of contented people.

Homeland was originally known as Bethel, so named for the old Methodist church that was located there. When the county began to settle up, a meeting was called to decide upon a name for the village, and an Irish peddler, named Jack McCormick, who had bought a home there, suggested the name Homeland, which was adopted.

Mr. James A. Wilson, an old-time resident, gives us the names of some of the early citizens, who were there about 1873. Among these were Rev. W. C. Jordan, the Methodist minister; John B. Bunch, Dr. Stanford, J. B. Pylant, Sr., William Durrance, J. L. Durrance, J. M. Crum, R. B. Mitchell, John Parker, Newton Parker, T. O. Parker, Judge Jas. T. Wilson, W. R. Hollingsworth, Dr. A. S. Johnson, Dr. Hayman, Martin Hayman, Benjamin F. Moody, Simpson Singletary, etc.

LOUGHMAN

Loughman, located in the extreme northeastern part of the county, has been an important industrial community for many years. Its chief enterprise has been the Everglades Cypress Lumber Company, established in 1905, which it is noted, in 1906, employed 300 men, turning out 200,000 feet of lumber daily. The concern sustained a $200,000 fire August 2, 1913. Its successor, the Everglades Cypress Co., is the important industry at this time. There is a Baptist and a Methodist church, and the Woman's Club, a very active organization, recently completed a commodious club house.

POLK CITY

In 1922, Isaac Van Horn laid out a town in northwest Polk, which was given the name of Polk City. The foundations of this enterprise were laid in keeping with Mr. Van Horn's characteristic thoroughness and liberal policies. The townsite is beautifully located, and the streets, avenues and parks admirably laid out. Many substantial improvements have been provided by Mr. Van Horn, among them being the beautiful Wayside Inn. The town has been incorporated, its mayor being J. Harold Addison; city engineer, George Axtel; chief of police, G. C. Lanier.

The *Polk City Chronicle* was established by Mr. Van Horn in January, 1925. Previously, Mr. Van Horn had published small papers in Polk City, the first being called the *Florida Bull,* succeeded by the *Merry-Go-Round,* and *The Chronicle* was the outgrowth of these. Ralph H. Patterson is associate editor.

ALTURAS

Alturas had its beginnings when the Seaboard Air Line was built from Bartow to Lake Wales, being a station about mid-way between the two cities named. It is in the heart of a rich grove section. Improvement has been pushed by the Woman's Club and the Civic Club. The latter was formed in August, 1923, and the following officers were elected October 4: J. A. Flannigan, president; G. M. Cranston, vice-president; Mrs. J. A. Flannigan, second vice-president; E. L. Grass, secretary; Mrs. G. T. Voight, treasurer.

Chapter XV.

EDUCATIONAL

In the early days of the county school facilities were naturally very meagre and very crude. Here and there, where there was a settlement, there would be a small log school house, which was also generally used as a meeting house, or an assembling place for religious or other purposes. A few of these schools were maintained by public funds. Sometimes two or three families would join together and employ a teacher to instruct their children in the rudimentary branches. Teachers, for either public or private schools, were poorly paid, $7 per month being considered a sufficient salary.

Hon. D. H. Sloan draws this picture of school conditions in his boyhood days:

"In early times there were only log school houses in the county, except in the two villages of Bartow and Fort Meade. There were no desks, even the teacher had none, and the pupils held their books in their laps. There were no stoves, and only an occasional open fireplace. When it was too cold to sit in the log building, with cracks in the wall and open floors, school would adjourn to the outdoors, the pupils sitting around log heap fires, often in a drizzling rain. There were few roads to school—only cattle or pig trails. The average school term was three months, seldom more than four. The pupils were taught by faithful, God-fearing, rod-using teachers, and teaching then did not consist of merely hearing lessons, nor did it require years before the pupils were able to spell and to read intelligently. The boys tried to please the girls, and sometimes the girls tried to look sweet—and did look sweet—at the boys. Those were never-to-be-forgotten days. The boys ran off to fishing holes, to the woods to gather grapes or other fruit, but seldom played hookey. Wrong-doing meant a severe licking at school, and the same remedy at home.

"I and many others alternated in going to school with cotton picking (nearly every little farm then had its cotton patch), potato digging, hog killing, etc. Children learned how to talk, and spell and figure, as we termed it. Being raised thus, I could appreciate the need of better conditions for the children of the later day. I got through the Florida Legislature a district school bonding bill, and we now have buildings finer than we really need, and terms so long that children get completely tired out, so they can neither study nor learn. So it goes—none of our systems, conditions or methods are perfect. Back to the old log school house, its open cracks, and the pig trails leading to it—never! But God give us again the godly, patient, helpful teaching spirit of the good old days."

In 1880 or 1881, when the era of development may be said to have begun in Polk, there were eleven organized schools, in which 242 pupils received instruction. We note that in 1881 there was a teachers' examination held at Bartow, conducted by Prof. D. C. Kantz, who was the principal (and the entire faculty) of Summerlin Institute. In October of that year, the School Board held a session, and

teachers were engaged as follows: Medulla, M. L. Menges; Bethel, F. M. Wilson; Foxtown, Smith Coachman; a school at Bowlegs, below Fort Meade, Miss Mattie Blount; Ellis' school house, Eugene Hunt. To operate the schools that year $2,200 was required. The county commissioners levied a three-mill tax, which yielded $1,400. The balance was secured by the payment by each pupil of $1.50. The school fund was in debt—as usual—the indebtedness being about $500.

A Mr. Robinson, or Robertson, taught a school at or near Socrum, in 1882, and that same year there is mention of the closing of the school at Foxtown, with an exhibition and a declamation contest. Lafayette Bryant was given a prize as the best speaker, and after the exercises a supper was given at the home of J. Wes Bryant.

In 1882 the following pupils attained the Honor Roll at the Bartow school: Master Allie Goode, Miss Emma Blount, Miss Minnie Pearce, Miss Julia Hewitt, Master J. D. Booth.

There was a school with an enrollment of 25 pupils taught by R. D. Brownfield at Lake Seward in the fall of 1882. A good school was also in progress at Gandy, A. B. Ferguson being the teacher.

At the close of 1882 there were 36 organized schools in the county, and the school fund was nearly out of debt. The assessment for school purposes for the year amounted to $2,054.11.

In 1887, $40 per month was the usual salary paid teachers, they having during that year been granted an addition of $10 to their monthly pay, "to enable the teachers to pay their own board." The members of the county school board at this time were M. D. L. Mayo, James T. Wilson, and J. W. Brandon. John Snoddy was secretary and county superintendent.

In 1888 the Homeland school, taught by Miss Swearingen, with 75 pupils, was reputed to be the largest in the county.

As development progressed, the school interests kept pace, and improvement in the number and character of the schools was constant. It is not possible to trace the evolution of the small and infrequent country school to the present stage of our magnificent county public school system. To do so would necessitate a volume of the proportions of this entire History. Three institutions have been of unusual importance and interest, and a brief sketch of each of these follows:

Summerlin Institute.

Jacob Summerlin, known as the "King of the Crackers," a very wealthy cattle man, purchased the present site of Bartow shortly after the close of the Civil War, and laid out the town. He donated forty acres of land for public buildings; twenty acres for uses of the Methodist Episcopal church; twenty acres to the Baptist church and forty acres for educational purposes. He then proceeded, with the Masons, to erect a two-story building, in partnership with that Order, the lower story of which was to be used as a school room. This was Summerlin Institute as we see it when D. C. Kantz opened it in October, 1881, with thirty pupils, though during the year a maximum attendance of forty pupils was reached.

The most important forward step in the next few years was the erection of the real Summerlin Institute. A portion of the land donated by Mr. Summerlin had been sold, and the sum of $8,401 had been thus realized. The people of Bartow contributed an additional $5,000. The contract for the building was let March 5, 1887, to Joseph Thompson, the contract price being $17,000. Completed and finished, the institution represented an outlay of $20,000. At the time of the erection of the building, Capt. David Hughes, Col. G. A. Hanson and Jacob Summerlin were trustees.

The corner-stone of Summerlin Institute was laid with imposing ceremonies on May 12, 1887, the Grand Lodge of Masons of Florida being in charge. This was, perhaps, Bartow's greatest day up to that time. A special excursion train was operated; there was a barbecue, and a great throng. The principal address was delivered by DeWitt C. Dawkins, of the Grand Lodge. Lacy Boyd, then a small boy, delivered an address of welcome and appreciation to Mr. Summerlin, and Miss Maggie Johnson made a presentation speech, tendering Mr. Summerlin a handsome, beautifully chased, gold-headed cane. To these addresses Mr. Summerlin made a suitable response.

The school was for many years the most important in the county. It was finally, by arrangement between the city of Bartow and the trustees of Summerlin, merged with the Bartow High School, and the latter still bears the name of Summerlin. Among distinguished educators who have been in charge of the school were Arthur Williams, William Hood, Tom F. McBeath, R. B. Huffaker, B. B. Lane, A. B. Conner, and others.

South Florida Military Institute.

In 1894, Gen. E. M. Law, a noted soldier and educator, came to Florida for the purpose of selecting a suitable location for the establishment of a military school. He decided on Bartow for this purpose, and in September, 1894, he opened the South Florida Military Institute, in temporary quarters. The 1895 session of the Florida Legislature voted State aid to the extent of $6,400 a year to the institution, the condition being that one student from each Senatorial district of the State be sent to the school by the Senator from the district, without charge for board or tuition. Thirteen and one-half acres of land in the city limits were secured, and suitable buildings erected, a portion of these buildings having been completed in time for the opening of school in the fall of 1895. J. W. Malsby, a son of Capt. L. W. Malsby, of Lakeland, was the first student admitted from Polk under this arrangement, though there were a dozen applicants who stood the competitive examination. H. G. Keen, also of Lakeland, stood second highest in the examination. With the enlargement of the institute, Capt. Thos. W. Gary, of South Carolina, was added to the faculty.

The Florida Legislature of 1897 increased the State's appropriation to $9,000 annually, instead of $6,400, as it had been up to that time.

There were two graduates at the close of the first year—in June, 1896—W. L. Boyd and E. A. Law. Graduates from Polk county in 1898 were E. L. Wirt, H. G. Keen and Mel A. Wilson.

In 1901 the State Legislature purchased the South Florida Military Institute and it became a State institution.

In June, 1903, Gen. E. M. Law resigned as superintendent, after conducting the Institute with marked success and ability for eight years. Gen. Law's popularity was so great that eleven members of the graduating class of thirteen, quit at the time of his resignation. Their places, however, were filled by new appointees from the various senatorial districts.

Gen. Law was succeeded by Col. H. P. Baya, who ably conducted the Institute, until the Buckman bill, passed by the Legislature of 1905, did away with the school as a State institution, and it did not reopen after its closing in June of that year. Many men who have gained distinction in the State, received their education in this institution.

Southern College.

The acquisition of Southern College in 1921 was one of the most important events, not only in the history of Lakeland, but in that of Polk County. When it became known that Lakeland might be considered as a location for the institution, a vigorous campaign was launched by the Chamber of Commerce and other citizens, to provide substantial inducements. The decision to bring the college to Lakeland was made at a meeting of the Trustees in Tampa on May 3, 1921. A tract of eighty acres of beautiful and productive orange groves, lying on Lake Hollingsworth, a cash subscription by citizens of $90,000, and a donation of $50,000 in light and water on the part of the city, were the considerations offered to bring about the location of the college in Lakeland. A brief history of the institution follows:

Southern College, Florida Methodism's institution of higher learning, opened its new doors in Lakeland in the fall of 1922 after having carried on for more than thirty years at Leesburg, Sutherland, and Clearwater Beach. Economic depression following the damaging freeze of '94 forced the college to close its doors for a year. In the later '90s the plant was moved to Sutherland and there flourished until the disastrous fire of 1921. For a year and half following that catastrophe Clearwater Beach was the temporary site, the housing of the college plant there being made possible largely through the loyalty and generosity of E. T. Roux of Plant City, who was then a member of the Board of Trustees.

Upon being moved to Lakeland the institution entered upon a new era of growth. Two large buildings, said to be among the finest college edifices in the United States, were ready for occupancy in 1922. In planning the immense building program those behind the project aimed toward a cultural atmosphere as well as toward mere physical comfort. Later came the erection of a dormitory for men, a large gymnasium and an athletic field. The two first buildings were the dormitory for women and Social Hall, the latter housing the dining hall, kitchen, class rooms, laboratories, and library.

The college site is in the midst of a sixty-acre orange grove on a slope overlooking Lake Hollingsworth. In order to provide boating and swimming for the students a dock and boat house were constructed.

Early in the summer of 1925 Dr. Ludd M. Spivey, then Dean of Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Ala., was named president of Lakeland's Southern. It was then that Southern's phenomenal growth began. The new president, through his energetic efforts and through the whole-hearted cooperation of loyal Southern friends throughout Florida, soon placed the institution on a progressive path forward. When he took the helm there were less than three hundred students enrolled. Within the comparatively short period of three years the number had been increased to nearly eight hundred, and the institution was drawing students from all parts of the United States.

Though under the supervision of the Florida Methodist Conference the college has enrolled a large per cent of students representing many different denominations.

When President Spivey took charge an indebtedness of more than $400,000 hung over the institution. In less than three years he had wiped out the debt and had set about the task of securing a half million dollars for endowment.

Southern offers courses leading to bachelor of arts and science degrees, and has special departments for normal work, music, voice, art, dramatics and expression.

This institution enjoys the distinction of being the southernmost college in the United States.

Chapter XVI.

SOME EARLY CHURCHES

Polk county today is rich in many splendid temples of worship, but the beginnings of religious practices in this section were naturally and necessarily crude. Early religious observances largely took the form of camp meetings, or outdoor gatherings. These were encouraged by the climatic conditions, which favored out-of-door life, and were almost necessitated by the fact that there were no buildings that could accommodate any considerable number of persons. For the minor occasions of worship, where the congregation comprised only a few families, there was sometimes a small building that was used as a combination church and school house. Circuit riders and other itinerant preachers—godly men who endured many hardships, that they might bring spiritual instruction to these remote places—preached at some of these meeting places at stated times, while in other settlements the visits of the preacher were infrequent and irregular. A camp meeting would draw the people from a distance of many miles. These meetings, or any kind of religious gatherings, were not only important as affording spiritual refreshment, but they furnished the chief, and sometimes the only, opportunities for social contacts. The people, as most people living in similar conditions, were simply and deeply religious, and the camp meeting provided an outlet for the emotional in their natures. Besides this, it partook somewhat of the character of a picnic, giving the people an opportunity to mingle together, to discuss crops and other concerns, and, doubtless, to do a little love-making.

The progress of many of the fine churches of the county is noted in connection with the stories of the various communities. The beginnings of a few of them are briefly sketched herewith:

It is uncertain as to when or where the first church building in the county was dedicated. There seems to have been a church at Socrum as early as any we find, a small log structure having been built by Henry M. Frier, Daniel Sloan and a few others nearly 80 years ago. There was no church building either at Bartow or at Fort Meade in 1880. At Bartow the Baptists and the Methodists had church organizations at that time. J. M. Hayman preached to the Baptists on the first Sunday of each month. The Methodists had services twice a month—G. W. Mitchell conducting them on the third Sunday, and P. R. McCrary on the fourth Sunday. Robert M. Pylant was preaching at Medulla. There was a Sunday School at Medulla also, J. A. Kilgore being the Superintendent.

We have referred to the Socrum church as being at least among the earliest. It is brought to attention by an incident occurring in connection with it in the summer of 1881—an instance of what was considered divine healing. Mrs. Susan J. Hancock, of that section, had been seriously afflicted, and had been treated, without receiving any benefit, by physicians of Hernando county and from Atlanta. She finally lost the faculty of speech and was reduced to a skeleton. She was

prayed for by Elder Alderman Wilson and several members of the Socrum church, and it is stated she was completely cured. Faith was stronger in those days than now.

On January 7, 1882, J. B. Crum called a meeting to take steps toward the erection of a Methodist church building in Bartow. The Baptists also made a start toward building at about the same time.

A Presbyterian congregation was formed at Bartow in February, 1882, and a house of worship was planned. John Richardson and family, Mr. McLeod and family, and Mesdames Hyland and Smith were active in this work. Mr. Lytle offered to donate a site for the building. Mr. Richardson was the first Elder. The church was not built until some years later, having been dedicated on Sunday, May 20, 1888. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. Sproull. Elder M. M. Dunlop made a financial statement, showing the cost of the building to be about $3,500.

A. G. Zipprer, James B. Crum and W. T. Carpenter were the first trustees of the Methodist church at Bartow. S. A. Jones & Co., of Tampa and Bartow, was given the contract for the building in April, 1882. By August the organ of the church had arrived, but the building had not been completed. In October of the same year the ladies of the church formed a misisonary society, Mrs. Dr. Ferguson being president, Mrs. Leah Moreland recording secretary, and Miss Angie Hewitt treasurer. The church was dedicated on Sunday, March 9, 1883, this being Bartow's first house of worship. Rev. W. C. Jordan officiated, assisted by Rev. P. R. McCrary and Rev. S. W. Carson.

Work was begun on the Baptist church at Bartow, in March, 1882, and on April 1st of the following year the building was dedicated. Rev. Mr. Gordon, of Tampa, preached the dedication sermon. J. M. Hayman and W. B. Varn were trustees.

A Sunday School was organized in the Methodist church at Bartow in March, 1882, with 63 attendants. H. C. Wentz was superintendent.

A church building was completed by the Methodists at Fort Meade in March, 1882; it was dedicated on May 7th.

In the fall of 1882 Epps Tucker organized a Congregational Methodist church, which held services in a church building at Seward Lake. A Sunday School, of which J. L. McClelland was superintendent, held regular sessions each Sunday.

The Episcopalians at Bartow held services in the Opera House in 1888, Rev. J. H. Weddell coming for the purpose on the second and fourth Sundays. Probably the first Episcopalian church building in the county was at Acton, the English town which was started in 1883 on Lake Parker, about two miles east of where Lakeland was built a little later. When Acton was abandoned, this church building was moved to Lakeland, and served the Episcopalian congregation of that city for many years until the completion of their present beautiful house of worship.

In 1900, the Christian congregation purchased the old Baptist church building at Bartow, to use as a house of worship by that congregation, the Baptists having built a new church that year.

Chapter XVII.

POLK COUNTY'S GOOD ROADS

The history of good roads in Polk County, as in Florida generally, prior to a decade and a half ago, may be described as "the short and simple annals of the poor." Good roads just did not exist; passable roads were few. Most of the so-called roads were little better than trails, their course alternating between mire sloughs and unbridged water courses, and deep sands, through which travel was painful and slow. Better roads were recognized as the most pressing need of the county for many years, but securing them was for a long time an apparently insuperable task. There was not the "metal" or gravel, that is abundant along every water-course in many northern States; there was not the rock which in other sections is a convenient and inexhaustible material for road construction. A new and undeveloped county, with little wealth and sparse population, could not consider brick or concrete roads, because their cost was prohibitive. The problem presented many phases, and for a long time it vexed those who were interested in public affairs and anxious to see the county develop and prosper.

In the early nineties clay of a superior quality was discovered in the vicinity of Bartow, and it was used on the streets with reasonable success. "Bartow macadam" was the name given to this new road material, and it was thought that the problem of road building might be solved. An attempt was made to clay some of the principal roads of the county, the first road so treated being between Bartow and Fort Meade, the cost in large part being paid by popular subscription.

The results attained constituted some improvement, but was by no means as satisfactory as had been hoped for. It was found that it was one thing to clay a few blocks of city streets, reasonably well drained, and firmly packed by years of traffic, and quite another to extend this work to miles of country roads, presenting varied and usually unfavorable conditions. Then, there was the constant warfare of upkeep, the roads were constantly being washed away, or, in dry weather, they resolved themselves into dust and were blown away. So, what with the first cost of construction, which was not light, and the expense of upkeep, which was undoubtedly heavy, progress towards a satisfactory road system in the county was extremely slow. In 1899 Polk County had less than five miles of improved roads, most of which had been built by public subscription. In 1900 a total of ten or twelve miles had been attained.

For years things went on in this way, little patches of road being built here and there over the county and going to pieces before they could be joined to other patches. Experiments were made with different material—clay, sand-oil, and even straw—but all were unsatisfactory. There was no attempt at a county-wide system, and it was not until less than twenty years ago that there was what might be considered a travelable road between any two important points in the county. There are young people at this time, scarcely grown, who remember when a trip

through the country to Bartow from Lakeland was a difficult and laborious undertaking.

Then the influence of the automobile began to be felt, and the demand for good roads became urgent and insistent. It culminated in a proposed bond issue for $500,000, in October, 1911; but the proposition was not well worked out, nor was it properly presented to the people, and the bond issue failed.

It was not until June, 1914, that the movement for a county-wide system of good roads took definite and decisive shape. The Polk County Good Roads Association was organized, being the outgrowth of various meetings of the Boards of Trade of several communities. The most important of these meetings up to that time was held at Bartow, on July 6, 1914, Capt. T. W. Gary being chairman, and A. J. Holworthy, secretary. Another meeting was held on July 23, over which Dr. J. H. Ross presided, Mr. Holworthy being made permanent secretary. A Board of Directors was chosen as follows: Dist. No. 1, D. M. Pipkin and W. W. Keen; No. 2, W. H. Lewis and F. E. Ohlinger; No. 3, C. H. Walker and E. E. Cline; No. 4, C. C. Palmer and H. J. Lewis; No. 5, Dr. W. H. Conibear and H. L. Kelley. John S. Howard, of Eloise, was made Governor-at-large.

Through the agitation of the Association, five quarter-mile experimental stretches of asphaltic oil-sand roads were contracted for by the county commissioners, one piece in each commissioner's district. J. T. Burrows was appointed to supervise the construction of these experimental pieces of roads, and they were good enough to make the people wish for more.

Chairman Howard and Secretary Holworthy, of the Polk County Good Roads Association, with two representatives from each commissioner's district, held many meetings at various points, and traveled over the State inspecting different types of road that had been put down. Information was secured from all available sources as to costs, materials and other details of road construction. A map was prepared showing the exact location of the roads it was proposed to build, the slogan being: "a good road from every point in the county to every other point." After a year or more of this campaign of education and investigation petitions were circulated asking the commissioners to call an election on a bond issue, the amount to be determined by the contract price of construction of the roads sought to be built. The petitions were submitted to the commissioners at their October, 1915, meeting, and a resolution granting the petition was adopted by the Board. At the November meeting the Jaudon Engineering Co., of Savannah, Georgia, was given the contract for the preliminary survey, at 3½ per cent. of the total cost of the roads. Fifteen engineering firms submitted bids.

This action precipitated an avalanche of discussion, pro and con. Many people wanted good roads, but doubted the wisdom of incurring a heavy bonded indebtedness. The county had hitherto never issued bonds. A multitude of facts and figures—and some statements that probably were not facts—was promulgated through the press and other mediums.

The commissioners were in session practically the entire week, beginning April 18, 1916, and contracts were awarded for the paving of 217 miles of standard sheet asphalt highways, at a cost of $1,500,000—the largest transaction of the

kind ever entered into by any county in the South. The project was let in five sections, the successful bidders being: Edwards Construction Company, Tampa; E. C. Humphrey, Hackensack, N. J.; W. P. McDonald Construction Company, New York; and Eureka Paving Company, of Houston, Texas. These contracts were conditional upon the adoption of the bond proposition by the people, which was to be submitted to vote on June 1st following.

Immediately there was launched a stirring campaign by the Good Roads Association. Meetings were held in almost every community in the county. Dr. J. H. Ross was among the most eloquent and able advocates of the proposition, and, with such men as A. J. Holworthy, John S. Howard, J. Walker Pope, and many others, he carried convincing arguments into practically every precinct. The campaign culminated in a monster good roads meeting at Bartow on May 25, it being said that 800 automobiles—practically all in the county—carried good roads boosters to this meeting.

The election was held on June 1, 1916, the vote being more than two to one in favor of the bonds. There was great rejoicing throughout the county, it being felt, as the outcome proved, that a wonderful step had been taken in the direction of progress and development.

John S. Howard, having become county commissioner, resigned as President of the Good Roads Association, after two years of tireless and efficient service, and J. Walker Pope, who had at all times been in the forefront of the fight for good roads, was elected President. There are many who take credit, and are entitled to a measure of such, for the success of this good roads movement, but the impartial opinion of one who was in very close touch with affairs at that time, would consider the efforts of five men as contributing very largely to the securing of Polk County's great county-wide system of roads. These men were: Dr. J. H. Ross, John S. Howard, J. Walker Pope, J. C. Swindell and A. J. Holworthy. Of them all it would not perhaps be unjust to state that the greatest share of work fell upon A. J. Holworthy. For at least two years before the bond issue was submitted to the people, Mr. Holworthy, with tireless industry and infinite pains, carried on a tremendous volume of correspondence, compiled data, prepared authentic figures, and otherwise was instrumental in there being presented such a clear-cut proposition, backed up by such unanswerable arguments, that it was accepted, despite its unprecedented magnitude, and the strong opposition, which characterized its earlier stages.

The Good Roads Association did not relax its efforts with the passage of the bond issue, but continued active and alert until the roads were completed. Five men—one from each district—were selected to serve as an Advisory Board, acting in conjunction with the Bond Trustees, and with equal authority. These men were: District No. 1, C. C. Martin, Mulberry; No. 2, H. M. Mansfield, Tiger Bay; No. 3, J. N. Hooker, Bartow; No. 4, H. W. Snell, Winter Haven; No. 5, M. F. Hetherington. The Bond Trustees were: T. L. Wilson, Bartow; W. H. Lewis, Fort Meade; and C. M. Clayton, Lakeland.

A. B. Leach & Company were successful bidders for the bonds at $101.79. Despite some complications, due to the coming on of the World War, the roads

were completed without undue delay. There were some mistakes and imperfections, as was but natural in carrying out such a mammoth project; but it is conceded that the roads have been worth to the county many times their cost, and that the construction of this system was a prime factor in the remarkable development of South Florida that immediately thereafter followed.

Following the county-wide bond issue, district projects were launched by Winter Haven, Auburndale, Lake Hamilton, and other communities, which desired additional good roads; and the county system has constantly been enlarged and improved, until Polk is second to no section in the country in the mileage and character of her roads.

Chapter XVIII.

THE PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY

Perhaps the most important industry of Polk county is the mining of pebble phosphate, in the prosecution of which there are many millions invested and large numbers of people employed. The origin of this great industry might be termed accidental. In 1886 John C. Jones and Capt. W. R. McKee, of Orlando, while on a hunting trip on Peace River, between Fort Meade and Charlotte Harbor, discovered phosphate, bone, and other material in the river. In January, 1887, through their efforts, a syndicate known as the Peace River Phosphate Company was formed, including Messrs. Jones and McKee, Messrs. Hill and Hunt, of Birmingham, Ala., and G. W. Scott, of Atlanta.

These gentlemen organized a corps of scientists, who, with major M. T. Singter, a well-known geologist, of Alabama, and Mr. Pratt, a chemist of Atlanta, visited Florida for the purpose of making a scientific examination of conditions. Capt. McKee accompanied the expedition as a civil engineer, and he was assisted by M. G. Darbyshire, of Fort Meade. People who lived in that section claim that the greatest secrecy was preserved as to the real purpose of the expedition, it being ostensibly to investigate the possibilities of producing tannic acid from the roots of the palmetto. It is claimed that owners of lands it was desired to purchase were told that if these lands could be bought at a reasonable figure, factories for the extraction of the acid would be installed, which, of course, would be advantageous in the development of the country. At any rate, a thorough inspection of the river bed was made, and there was found what seemed to be an almost inexhaustible deposit of phosphate rock, which in the territory examined averaged 61 per cent pure bone phosphate, which is about three per cent higher than the South Carolina deposits.

Being encouraged by the rich find the company at once secured forty-three miles of the river front, including both banks, making a total distance down the river of twenty-one and one-half miles.

Capt. Scott, in a statement made in 1888, states: "The company proposes at an early day to develop this valuable property, and will, in the near future, send a cargo of the rock to the Scott Mills in Atlanta to be worked up and put practically on the market. This shipment will, in all probability, be made via Punta Gorda to Columbus, Ga., and thence by rail to Atlanta. During the session of the Legislature of 1887 a bill was passed granting G. W. Scott and associates the right to prospect and remove from the navigable rivers of the State any phosphate they could find. This bill, of course, granted a general, but not a special right. Acting under this authority they purchased a small steamer and secured the services of scientists to make a thorough investigation. All the navigable waters of the eastern and southern portion of the peninsula were examined without discovering the bone phosphates of quality and quantity sufficient to be worked with profit, except that on Peace River; but here and there, in Marion and Alachua counties, light deposits

were found, ranging from about 30 to 35 per cent of phosphate of iron and illuminic, which is too low a grade for commercial fertilizers."

In May, 1888, G. W. Scott was arranging to ship phosphate from Arcadia, having contracted with a Mr. Morehead for 200,000 tons, to be supplied at the rate of 200 to 400 tons per month. He reported that the entire State had been carefully looked over and that the section mentioned was the only place where phosphate beds could be found.

The discovery of phosphate in Florida inaugurated an era of speculation unparalleled in the State up to that time. Pine lands that would have been thought dear a year earlier at $1.50 per acre jumped to $200 or more per acre, and were eagerly bought. Companies were organized in feverish haste and stock was issued by the ream. The man who could not talk capital in millions and phosphate in thousands of tons was of small importance. However, the bubble burst as rapidly as it inflated, and, starting from the insecure foundation of the era of wild speculation, there was built up an enormous industry that has done business in a practical, legitimate fashion, and has developed steadily and strongly. There was in 1893, when the business had settled down to a substantial basis, probably 200 companies on paper, organized ostensibly to mine Florida phosphates; but hardly one-tenth of that number were actually in operation, producing and shipping.

The first shipments of Florida phosphates were made in 1888, aggregating about 3,000 tons for the entire year. Up to 1890, however, it seems that not a ton of pebble phosphate had been mined in Polk county. The pioneer in the field was the Pharr Phosphate Company, which commenced operations that year on a property located about a mile and a half from the town of Bartow. In 1891 other companies were organized and commenced developing in about the order named: The Bartow, the Land Pebble, the Bone Valley, the Virginia-Florida, the Phosphoria, or Florida Limited, the Terra Ceia, etc.

In the deposits of Polk there is much of great interest from a scientific standpoint, as they abound in fossils of such land animals as armadillos, elephants, mastodons, horses, land turtles, etc. Also there are frequently uncovered many evidences that the beds were once the scene of abundant marine life, such as the teeth and vertebrae of crocodiles, great quantities of sharks' teeth, also teeth of the ray and other bones and fossil remains.

Among Polk county citizens who have been prominent in phosphate development are E. C. Stuart, J. N. Hooker, and C. G. Memminger. The latter built several of the largest and most efficient plants in this section and is a nationally recognized authority on all phases of the phosphate industry.

Chapter XIX.

THE CITRUS INDUSTRY

The growing of citrus fruit as a commercial industry in Polk County is comparatively a recent proposition. It had its beginnings not much more than fifty years ago, when settlers who had a few trees would haul the surplus fruit to Tampa, or other settlements, supplying a necessarily limited demand. Owing to the almost total lack of transportation facilities, there was little incentive to produce more than could be used for local needs. Oranges were early an important item in the people's food supply; grapefruit was regarded as hardly edible until much later, when, in response to demands of northern taste, this fruit was given more attention, until finally it was developed into its present superb quality.

It has been generally accepted that in 1835 there occurred the coldest weather ever experienced in Florida, and that practically all orange trees in the State were killed at that time. Old timers contradict this statement, however, and claim that as early as 1842 wild orange trees were found in the hammocks eight and ten inches in diameter, and which must have been growing prior to 1835.

The luscious orange, with which we in Florida are so familiar, was not always plentiful in this section. Mr. E. S. Whidden, now of Mulberry, a native of Polk County, states that in his early boyhood a sweet orange was perhaps a greater novelty to him than to the children of the North. There were wild oranges, but they were hardly edible, owing to their extreme acidity. Orange culture started from small beginnings—at first a few trees around the shack of the settler; then, small, irregular plantings, gradually taking the systematic arrangement of the grove. So, in the life-time of a person not yet old, there has grown up in its entirety, the gigantic citrus industry, with its vast groves, its mammoth packing houses; its complicated machinery and other equipment, incident to the shipment and marketing annually of millions of boxes of superb fruit.

In 1913, the late C. D. Clough, in writing of a visit to the home, near Youmans, of Berrien Platt, one of the pioneer citizens of this section, states that in Mr. Platt's grove there was then a tree which, year after year, for a long period, had produced 10,000 oranges annually, the equivalent of fifty boxes. Mr. Platt related that an orange seed had been planted in a cigar box in Tampa in the year 1838, and as a result a small tree came up, was carried to Platt's homestead and transplanted, and in the 75 years that had intervened, there had developed from this beginning the mammoth and productive tree described. An orange tree, authorities state, will bear fruit until 150 years old, and there are recorded instances of orange trees 500 years old that are yet bearing.

About the year 1880, orange culture as a commercial proposition, may be said to have only fairly begun. People counted their citrus holdings by the number of trees, rather than the number of acres; they counted the individual oranges, rather than the boxes. Quotations were by the hundred or the thousand. When hauled to Tampa they brought $10 to $12 per thousand. Small shipments were

occasionally made by water from Tampa to northern markets—usually by steamer to Cedar Key, and thence by rail—and in 1881 there were some sales made in Philadelphia at $4.00 per half-barrel box. In Chicago the price quoted was $5.50. Some growers of this section hauled their fruit to Wildwood, which was then the nearest railroad point, and were thus able to sell their fruit more advantageously than if they had taken it to Tampa. Local buyers, collecting the small crops to haul to the point of shipment, paid $5 per thousand on the trees, or $5.50 per thousand if the seller picked them. Even at this time the matter of marketing was an absorbing problem to the grower, for in September, 1881, there was a meeting held at Medulla to organize an agricultural and fruit growers' association. George Hamilton was chairman of this meeting, and G. F. Smith was secretary.

There was no machinery for handling fruit at that time, all the operations incident to packing and shipping being done by hand. Probably some machinery was used in other parts of the State, but it was not introduced into Polk County until during the latter '80's.

In 1882, George Summerlin, of near Bartow, sold his crop of 25,000 "bright and juicy oranges" on the home market for $15 per thousand, an unusually good sale.

People were no more averse to a quick turn-over in those days than in later boom periods. R. R. Blount bought a nursery of 1,170 trees, four and five years old, from B. F. Blount, for $31. He sold it to S. I. Pearce for $60, and Pearce sold it to Daniel McLeod for $100, all of these transactions taking place in one day, in 1882.

In 1883 it was estimated that the value of orange shipments would not exceed $3,000—though, of course, if those consumed in the county were considered, the value of the crop was very much more.

With the coming of the railroad, orange culture was given a great impetus. There was a market at remunerative prices for all the fruit that could be produced, new groves were constantly being planted, and old ones became very profitable, and were held at high prices. In 1888, Judge Jas. T. Wilson, of Homeland, sold his grove for $40,000. By 1894, there were many groves in the county worth even a larger sum.

There was constant progress and development in fruit culture until the great disaster of 1894-95, which appeared at first to be a death blow to this great and profitable industry. On December 27th, 1894, a cold wave swept over Florida. In this section the temperature went down to 20 degrees. This was followed by warm, pleasant weather. The ungathered fruit was frozen and ruined. Many believed the trees were killed, but a few days developed the fact that the trees were hardly injured. The old leaves dropped, and in a short time the trees were entirely bare of foliage. The warm weather soon caused the buds to swell and new leaves to appear. By February 7, 1895, the date of the second freeze, the trees had assumed a green hue, and it was apparent that they had been little damaged by the cold.

On the night of February 7, 1895, the second cold wave of that winter swept over the State. That night the temperature dropped to 18 degrees, some claim even lower. The trees were flush with sap, and the tops were covered with tender

half-grown leaves. This second freeze proved to be a knock-out blow. The orange trees would have sustained the one freeze, but two proved too much for their vitality. The horticulturists of the State, in their discussions in annual meetings, have been of the unanimous opinion that the trees would have pulled through either of these cold waves singly. It was the two combined, with a specially warm interim between, forcing the trees into a vigorous spring growth, that did the damage.

In many groves practically every tree was killed to the ground, and owners who had been well-to-do were reduced to poverty overnight. Some were discouraged and abandoned their holdings; but the majority set to work to rehabilitate their groves, making a living meantime through developing other and hitherto unsuspected resources, principally products of the soil. In a few years citrus production was brought back to a volume equal to that of the freeze, and new plantings covered thousands of acres with magnificent groves. We note this comment of an old-timer in 1901: "A few years ago, dwellers in the flat-woods laughed to scorn those who planted orange groves in the higher lands. As one expressed it, 'Those miserable old sandhills are good for nothing but to get lost in'. Patiently the pioneers kept at their work, too busy to listen to these croakings, and with too much faith in their own good judgment to be discouraged by them. Now the hills are dotted with dwellings and green with orange groves."

Long and persistent efforts on the part of citrus growers of the State to organize for better shipping and selling methods, finally crystallized into a determination to send a party of growers to California to study the marketing organization of that State, which had proven quite successful. On April 20, 1909, a party of about fifty persons left on this mission. Those from Polk County were: Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sample, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Clark, Mrs. A. L. Lyle, Chas. H. Walker, of Bartow; Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Inman, and Miss Belle Inman, of Winter Haven; H. G. Nickerson and G. H. Thompson, Florence Villa.

On June 1st a State-wide meeting of Florida citrus growers assembled in Tampa to receive the report of this committee, and the Florida Citrus Exchange was the outcome. An organization committee of thirty was selected, the Polk County members of the committee being F. W. Inman, Eugene Holtsinger and J. W. Sample. Dr. F. W. Inman was subsequently elected chairman, and Dr. R. H. Peacock, of Winter Haven, secretary of this organization committee. In the final organization, Dr. F. W. Inman was made president of the Exchange; J. W. Sample, vice-president, and R. H. Peacock, of Winter Haven, secretary. The Florida Citrus Exchange idea originated in Polk County, and her progressive growers were very largely responsible for the success of the movement. While its operation, perhaps, has not at all times been satisfactory, the formation of the Citrus Exchange was a great forward step in the citrus industry, and was primarily responsible for the wonderful development of that industry during the past two decades.

At this writing efforts are being made to further improve the selling processes, and the agitation will undoubtedly result in benefit to the industry, which only requires a solution of the problems of marketing and distribution to render it one of the State's greatest and most dependable resources.

Chapter XX.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY

While other interests have overshadowed the cattle industry in latter years, it was for a long time one of the most important and remunerative pursuits in this county. With the unlimited range of the earlier days, cattle could be brought to maturity at a very nominal expense. They were wild creatures, largely left to shift for themselves, except that once a year they were rounded up and marked and branded. Cuba afforded a ready market.

Hon. D. H. Sloan, who is a native of the county, says that "in the early days cattle-raising was practically the only money-producing occupation in South Florida. There was no home market, the cattle being shipped to Cuba, or driven to some distant point to the north. The principal medium of exchange was Spanish gold, the doubloon (value about $15.75, varying somewhat at times), being the coin most frequently in circulation; also there was the half-doubloon and quarter-doubloon. There was little silver, and American gold and greenbacks were rare. Cattle buyers went through the country often alone, with saddle pockets across their saddles filled with gold—no armed bodyguards, no armored cars. They camped, or spent the nights at rural homes, leaving their bags of gold on the front porch, without fear of molestation. If a man owed a dollar, or a thousand, as a rule he paid it. Few notes were given; there was rarely a law suit, and the courts were seldom used, except, perhaps, to try some fellow for murder because some one had called him a liar. There were few land deeds—people as a rule respected each other's claims, and there were no suits to get the other fellow's lands."

From an old newspaper article, printed while the cattle industry was in its hey-dey, we gather the following regarding certain phases of this industry:

The natives, or "Crackers," are brought up to the business from youth, know nothing else, and like nothing better, than to be given a horse and dog and the care of a herd of cattle.

On account of the free range and the danger of losing cattle, small herds cannot be managed as profitably as large ones. The owner of a thousand head of cattle is hardly considered a stock man. Most of the stock men own from 5,000 to 10,000 cattle, and there are a dozen, probably, who own from 12,000 to 30,000. The owners employ men to look after their heads, each stock-keeper being placed in charge of from 100 to 500 cattle, any one of which he can recognize if mixed with another herd. They are allowed for their services two beeves a year, and every fifth calf. They help each other, six or eight of them riding together, each herd being looked after every month or two. Once a year each owner gathers his cattle together, and all the calves are marked with his lawful brand and ear-marks. These are matters of public record and of legal advertisement. One who takes up a newspaper in a cattle country will be much amused by the columns of bold black characters, which on examination prove to be coarse engravings of cattle marks. Each large stock owner usually owns numerous marks, which he acquired

in purchasing herds. The brand is stamped on the right hip by means of a heated iron instrument, the face of which represents two letters, the initials of the owner's name, or one letter within a diamond or heart. It is said that the branding should be done on the decrease of the moon in order that the scar may not spread. Yearlings that are found without a brand are called "heretics." and may be taken up and branded by any who may find them.

The ear-marks are made by slitting the ear, or cutting a piece out of it, the right and left ears being cut differently. The cuts are of various shapes, and have distinctive names, such as a split, crop, under-bit, upper-bit, pail-handle, under-square, upper-square, fleur-de-lis, cross-nick, etc. In addition the skin under the neck is sometimes cut and allowed to hang down. This is called a dewlap. Cattle marking is almost as much of a science as heraldry. The combinations of brands and of right and left ear-marks, are so varied that there need be no dispute about ownership, and if there is, there is a code of special laws for the settlement of such disputes.

Every spring the natural deposit of natural fertilizing matter, consisting of decayed herbs, fallen leaves, pine cones, etc., is destroyed by fire, in order to stimulate an early growth of tender herbage. The damage thus done to the soil of Florida far exceeds the value of all the cattle raised in the State.

Perhaps an idea of the cattle business as it existed in the early days can best be conveyed by giving a brief sketch of a man who was the most striking figure in the industry, a prominent figure in the history of Polk, and who was known as the "King of the Crackers"—Jacob Summerlin, founder of the city of Bartow. This sketch was written by a contemporary of Mr. Summerlin:

The Floridian who is called the "King of the Crackers" is one of the richest cattle owners in the State; one of its most eccentric characters; and the first American baby born in Florida after the State was ceded to the United States government by the Spaniards in 1819. His father lived in Alachua county, close down by the Indian line.

Those known as Crackers in Georgia and other Southern States, are poor white people and get their name from harvest labor, corn-shucking or "corn-cracking"; but the Florida Cracker is a cow-boy, cattle owner or cattle dealer, and some of these men attain considerable wealth. They take their name from the art they have of cracking a long leather whip, which sounds like a gunshot at a half-mile's distance.

Jake, who could ride a horse and crack a whip when he was seven years old, when he was a young man could crack a whip eighteen feet long, only eighteen inches of it in handle. His father gave him some calves when he was a lad, and Jake prospered. Thousands of cattle belonged to him as he grew older, and year by year he sold thousands in Cuba, and made great profits on every ship-load. Spaniards regarded him as a wonder—a man who couldn't be cheated, who never gambled, and who never drank. He bought land and built wharves, he came to own houses, and lakes, and groves of orange and lemon trees. Stories of his riches began to be repeated, and he came to be called the King of the Crackers—a name which mightily pleased him. For he is proud of his early hardships and

dangers; he dresses, lives, talks and trades as a poor man might, but he gives to the poor, and defends the cause of the fatherless against the landsharks, as only a rich man can.

Queer stories are told of him and of other rich cattle dealers in South Florida. Credible witnesses state that in the rude log cabins of these men, uncounted wealth lies unconcealed. Many have seen the King of the Crackers, in his blue shirt and rough trousers, paying out money from a peck of gold pieces, heaped on a rude pine table. Fat, yellow, Spanish doubloons, each piece worth more than $15, are bundled into a corn sack and left to lie in a corner, or are stuffed into sleeve of an old homespun shirt, or given by the tin cupfull to a child to play with. Old cigar boxes, tin meat cans, old woolen socks, are favorite holders of money for the Florida cattleman. These articles will very probably be set on a rafter, or poked behind a door frame. None seems to take care of mere money. They know some men are mean enough to steal calves, and put on them the wrong brand, but who would be mean enough to steal dollars and cents?

Prouder of his nickname—or title—than of his money, the King of Crackers, who works his own garden, and waters his pet mule, with perhaps an ostentatious humility, makes his boast of lack of all pretences. "I am nothin' but a Cracker, don't you see?" he would say, pausing as he leads the old white mule. "I don't try to ape the quality. I aint wore a coat in twenty year; I aint settin' up for a fine gentleman; my old blue trousers and my check shirt suits me, and a good pair of stout galluses. Rain or shine, I don't want any more. My boys can dress up in store clothes if it suits 'em—go to college—talk big; I'm going on just this way until I drop in my tracks. I'm going to work when I please—and play when I please—nothing under the sun but a native born, sun-baked, old Florida Cracker."

Another correspondent who visited Mr. Summerlin at Punta Rassa, writes: "At the time of my visit he was living alone, with one or two colored servants, his family residing elsewhere; but with vessels frequently landing or touching at his wharf, and with drovers constantly coming and going, he was seldom without company. His receipts for cattle are large, and being mostly in Spanish gold and silver, it would seem that this would be a source of anxiety and danger; but he does not allow riches to be a burden to him in any way; a peck of silver in an old sack is flung under the bed, and a few hundred doubloons, in a stocking, are laid away in a sly place until needed for use."

Punta Rassa, the writer describes as a desolate, storm-swept, sandy cape, which, with neighboring islands, forms a very good harbor. "On its inner shore are built a wharf and several plain buildings. It would seem that no one would live on such a spot from choice; yet, here in this desert-like place, in that ugly old building, with the bare necessities of life around him, lives one of the richest men in Florida, who could, if he would, live in princely style anywhere in the State. But Jacob Summerlin has not the spirit of a nabob. Knowing poverty and hardship from personal experience, associated through life with the poor and ignorant class of people, he has retained the personal habits of a poor man, and has ever been the poor man's friend and protector. Owning, as he does, the wharf at Punta Rassa, and a thousand acres of land adjacent, houses and orange groves elsewhere,

and tens of thousands of cattle, I could not realize that the little old man, whom I found engaged in cutting up a slaughtered beef, was the King of the Crackers, whose name is known throughout Florida and Cuba."

Large operators in the early days of the county were Ziba King, H. T. Lykes, Summerlin Bros.—the latter having bought the herds of Jacob Summerlin in 1883, making them the largest cattle owners in the State at the time. Later T. M. Lybass, George W. Mann, W. H. Towles, S. H. Page, Lightsey, Lewis & Carruthers, and Lightsey & Lewis, Thos. Godwin, A. M. Ryals, and E. E. Skipper, were large operators. In northwest Polk, J. Wes Bryant, A. J. Morgan, the Keens and the Costines, have been largely identified with the business.

HISTORY OF POLK COUNTY FLORIDA

Part II

BIOGRAPHICAL

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Biographical Sketches of Leading Citizens of Polk County, Florida

C. W. ADAMS

Among Polk County's distinguished citizens, none have greater claim to achievement than Dr. C. W. Adams, of Lake Alfred, owner of the largest dental office in the world, located at Detroit, and who is also one of the largest grove owners in the State of Florida.

Since 1911 Dr. Adams has been living the ideal life—spending six months of the year in Detroit, and the remaining six months in Florida, enjoying the many and varied outdoor sports of this favored section during the winter season, at the same time looking after his large citrus interests.

For a number of years Dr. Adams' magnificent bearing grove of 1,000 acres at Lake Alfred has been the show place of that section. Oranges, grapefruit, tangerines and 1,000 avocado pear trees make of this grove one of the finest properties of the kind in the entire State.

To properly handle this fruit for market, Dr. Adams has just completed the Adams Packing House at Auburndale, a modern, well-equipped packing plant.

Dr. Adams' hobby is aviation, and he owns a flying field at Lake Alfred. He is an enthusiastic sportsman, and has a number of fine motor boats on his lake, which borders his property at Lake Alfred.

Dr. Adams is an ardent Florida booster, ready at all times to further the interests of his adopted State, and he is recognized as one of the largest developers of the Lake Alfred section.

He is vice-president of the American National Bank of Winter Haven. He is a member of the State and National Society of Dentists, and fraternally is a Mason, Shriner, Knight of Pythias and an Elk.

ALVIN I. ALBINSON

Among the newer residents of the county who are accomplishing things in a large way is A. I. Albinson, contractor of Bartow. He was born at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was educated in the schools of that city.

Mr. Albinson has been in the building and contracting business since 1907, being head of a large firm in Minneapolis before coming to Bartow in 1924. His company has recently completed the Bartow Municipal Hospital, erected at a cost of $130,000; a large canning plant for Page & Hill; the Peace River bridge; State bridge at Leesburg; the bridges and control levees for the drainage of Lake Han-

cock; the lovely home of S. P. James and a number of other residences and business houses are among the contracts handled by this firm. Mr. Albinson does a large business all over the county, and in fact, throughout South Florida. He constructed the Bartow Fire Station and the stadium for the Athletic Field.

Mr. Albinson is a Rotarian and an ardent booster for his adopted home town.

He was married at Minneapolis in 1914 and has four children: Bernice, Maria, Barry and A. I., Jr.

HARRISON WILLIAM AMBROSE

H. W. AMBROSE, manager of the Ambrose groves at Winter Haven, was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, October 24, 1882, the son of Harry T. and Elmira Rebecca (Dash) Ambrose. The former is a Kentuckian and the latter is a native of the State of Ohio; his earlier ancestors were from Scotland and Ireland, and his maternal grandfather (Patten) fought with distinction in the War of 1812.

Mr. Ambrose took his preparatory work at the Newark (New Jersey) Academy, and in 1906 was graduated from Princeton University. Upon the completion of his education he was connected with the manufacturing department of the American Book Company, of which his father is owner.

Mr. Ambrose located at Winter Haven in 1913, and since that time has devoted himself to citrus culture. There are 350 acres of citrus groves under his management, these being owned by his father, H. T. Ambrose.

Mr. Ambrose was one of the organizers of the Haven Villa corporation, and is a director of the Florence Villa Citrus Association and the Snell National Bank. He is a Rotarian, Director of Red Cross Work, and a member of the Presbyterian church. He belongs to the Princeton Club of New York, and while at school became a member of the University Cottage Club, and he belongs to the Lake Region Country Club at Winter Haven.

During the war he was an athletic director for the Y. M. C. A., and spent a year overseas serving in this capacity. His wife, who before her marriage at Toledo, Ohio, June 7, 1916, was Frances Kinney, is an active member of the Civic League and the American Legion Auxiliary. Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose have two children: Harrison W., Jr., and Elizabeth Manzies.

EDWARD KINCAID ANDERSON

E. K. ANDERSON was born in South Carolina, February 23, 1876, the son of Thomas and Eugenia Anderson. His ancestors, early settlers of South Carolina, came to this country from Scotland and Ireland, and fought in the Revolutionary war. One of his mother's early ancestors was the inventor of the cotton gin.

Mr. Anderson received his higher education at Davidson college, and before coming to Florida was in turn a travelling salesman, cotton buyer and merchant.

He removed his family to Auburndale in 1914 and established a mercantile business. He is a large property owner, having several groves in the Auburndale and Lakeland sections.

Mr. Anderson is an active civic worker, and has been instrumental in securing for the community various improvements. He was mayor of Auburndale three terms and has served an equal length of time on the Council. During the war he was a leader in bond issues and Red Cross drives,

Mr. Anderson and Rhea Laird were married in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1901, and they have three children: Edward, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Laird, a student at Clemson College, and Eugenia (Mrs. George Richard), of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Anderson is a Presbyterian and an ex-member of the Kiwanis Club.

M. R. ANDERSON

M. R. ANDERSON, one of the leading citizens of Lake Wales, was born in Russell, Illinois, May 30, 1883, but is more of a Floridian than the majority of northerners as he came to this State when less than a year old, his parents, Frank and Martha Eveline Anderson, settling in Bartow in 1884. The former was an orange grower for many years, and is now City Clerk of Lake Wales.

After completing his education, Mr. Anderson became a registered pharmacist, and at the present owns a splendidly equipped drug store in Lake Wales, one of the largest in the county. He first engaged in the drug business in Bartow, and later owned stores in Daytona and Jacksonville. He came to Lake Wales in 1915 and opened the first permanent drug store in the town.

Mr. Anderson was honored by his fellow citizens by being elected their first mayor, and he served in that capacity for four terms. While he was mayor the city government was organized, the ordinances framed, and the contract for the first street paving was let.

Mr. Anderson is a Rotarian, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, a Mason, Shriner and a Knight of Pythias. He owns several fine orange groves, and takes much interest in these valuable holdings.

He was married at Daytona Beach to Jane Hankins. They have three children: M. Ross, Jr., graduate of the University of Florida in pharmacy; Louis, and Doman.

WILLIAM FRANK ANDERSON

W. F. ANDERSON, a resident of the county for 43 years, was born in Ohio in 1859, and until 1885 was in the drug business in the western part of Illinois.

Desiring to become a Floridian, Mr. Anderson removed his family to Polk County in 1885, locating at Bartow, where he was manager of a drug store for a number of years. He had varied interests while living at Bartow, having at one time conducted a grocery, engaged in the insurance business, and was one of the pioneer tomato growers of the Lake Eloise section.

In 1912 Mr. Anderson removed to Lake Wales, where he owned a fine orange grove, but he has since disposed of same, and now devotes his entire time to the office of City Clerk, Treasurer and Collector of Lake Wales, which office he fills most satisfactorily. He is also Justice of the Peace for the Lake Wales district.

Mr. Anderson is a member of the Presbyterian church. Fraternally, he is an Odd Fellow.

He was married August 1st, 1882, at Vincennes, Ind., to Martha E. Milam. They have four children: Milam R., F. D., H. L., and Pauline.

W. H. ANDERSON

W. H. ANDERSON, for the past twelve years owner of one of the leading drug stores of Winter Haven, was born in Cross Roads, South Carolina, Florence

County, 1888, the son of James A. and Lula May Anderson. His paternal grandfather was killed in the Civil War; his grandfather on his maternal side was a Baptist minister.

Coming to Florida in 1900 Mr. Anderson spent several years in Kissimmee, and for five years, from 1907 until 1912, was with the Magnolia Pharmacy at Plant City. In the latter year he bought the Goodyear drug store at Winter Haven, changing the name to the Anderson Drug Store, and has conducted same in a high-class manner, the concern having enjoyed an excellent trade under Mr. Anderson's management.

Other business interests of importance claim Mr. Anderson's attention. He is owner of the Winter Haven Book Store, and is also president of the Winter Haven Building & Loan Association, and one of its organizers. He has served as president of the Winter Haven Board of Trade, and is always ready to do his share in all matters of civic advancement.

Mr. Anderson is a Mason, Shriner, Odd Fellow, Modern Woodman, Knight of Pythias, D. O. K. K. and a member of the Royal Neighbors, Pythian Sisters and Eastern Star. He is a leading member of the Baptist church of Winter Haven and the superintendent of the Sunday School.

He was married in 1913 at Plant City to Ruby Mary Barker. They have three sons, W. H., Jr.; J. B. and Robert M.

EUGENE CHESTER ANGELL

E. C. ANGELL, one of the best known educators of the county, was born in Delevan, Wisconsin, the son of Stephen Frances and Anna Angell. The former, a native of Rhode Island, was the cousin of the late James B. Angell, ex-president of the University of Michigan, whose son is now president of Yale University.

Prof. Angell graduated from the Delevan High School and from Wayland University. Later he attended Shurtleff college for three years, and in 1895 received his A. B. degree from Brown University.

Prof. Angell removed to Lakeland in August, 1898, and has taught in the schools of that city for fifteen terms, one year as principal. He has also served the schools of Clearwater and Tampa in this capacity. From 1921-1928 he has been head of the Department of Science and Instructor in Chemistry in Lakeland High School.

From 1912 until 1921 Mr. Angell was engaged in the contracting business. The structures erected by him include the old Morrell Memorial Hospital, Rose Keller Home, Baptist and Presbyterian churches and scores of residences. He also served as superintendent of construction for numbers of business houses. During the World War Mr. Angell did noteworthy work at Carlstrom Field, Arcadia, one of the leading aviation fields of the country.

Prof. Angell is a member of the First Baptist church and was teacher of the Baraca class for over twenty-five years. Fraternally he is allied with the Odd Fellows, and is Past Grand of the Lakeland Chapter.

He married Grace Emerson at Sisseton and Wahpeton Indian School in 1897, this school being located at Good Will, South Dakota. He has one step-son, William C. Emerson.

PORTER MARCELLUS BAILES

PORTER MARCELLUS BAILES, pastor of the First Baptist church of Lakeland, was born March 28th, 1888, at Fort Mill, South Carolina, the son of Z. T. and Ellen (Hill) Bailes. His paternal ancestors were from England, one of whom, Ezra Alexander, was one of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. His maternal ancestors were from Holland, and were early settlers of North Carolina. An uncle on his mother's side, Rev. Kessler, was a pioneer preacher in that State.

After attending the public schools of York County, he was a student at Mars Hill College for two years, and in 1912 graduated from Furman University with an A. B. degree. He then attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1912 until 1916, graduating from that institution in the latter year.

Having equipped himself for the ministry, he accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist church at LaGrange, Kentucky, where he remained one year until called to the pastorate of the First Baptist church at Greer, South Carolina, where he served for nine years from 1917 until 1926. Under his leadership the membership grew from 208 to 824; a new church was built at an outlay of $90,000; a new parsonage was erected, and during those years he held many evangelistic meetings annually. Through his efforts 702 additions were made to churches in 1925 as a result of his powerful evangelistic sermons, this being the largest record made by any minister in the State.

Rev. Bailes came to Lakeland in March, 1926, and the following fall, having had large additions to the membership each Sunday, this number was enlarged by 252 additions brought into the church during a revival held by the pastor. This revival brought greater results, in point of membership, than any other meeting held in the Southern Baptist convention that year. During his two years' pastorate in Lakeland, Rev. Bailes' powerful sermons have resulted in the addition of 913 members by baptism, making the total membership of this church 2,086, the largest Baptist church in the South Florida Baptist Association. During his two years' pastorate in Lakeland, Rev. Bailes has held evangelistic meetings at various leading churches of Florida, including Plant City, Bartow, Tampa and Live Oak, and during these meetings has been instrumental in adding 1,498 members to the churches he has thus served.

During the World War, Rev. Bailes was a wonderful force in Red Cross and Victory Loan drives in South Carolina, and was Chairman of the Red Cross drive at Greer.

He is a member of the Exchange Club and is a Mason. On June 24, 1914, he married Sarah Withers Button at Bedford, Kentucky. They have two sons, Porter M., Jr., and Joe Dean.

PAUL W. BAILEY

What can be accomplished by a man who sticks to his home town has been demonstrated by Paul Bailey, of Winter Haven, one of the largest individual orange growers in Polk county.

Mr. Bailey has the distinction of being the first child born at Winter Haven, August 25, 1886, being the date. He is a son of Clem B. and Sibyl (Kennedy) Bailey, a sketch of the former, who died in 1914, appearing in this volume.

Upon the completion of his education, received in the schools of his home city, Mr. Bailey became a real estate operator and citrus grower. In point of service he is the oldest real estate man in Winter Haven, and is an authority on citrus culture, his advice being often sought by growers. He owns about one hundred and twenty-five acres of bearing trees and is interested in a number of other groves, all of which, with one exception, are located in Polk county.

Mr. Bailey is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Knights of Pythias. He was married at Winter Haven, March 1, 1926, to Miss Maud Hardy, of Iowa. They have one child, Virginia.

JOHN E. BALLENGER

JOHN E. BALLENGER, vice-president of the Wm. P. McDonald Construction Company, of Lakeland, Florida, was born in Alexandria, Virginia, May 1, 1884, the son of John Thomas Ballenger and Lou Emma Ballenger.

He attended the public schools of Washington, D. C., and McKinley Manual Training School, in which city he lived the greater part of his life, before coming to Jacksonville, Florida, in 1911. He completed his education at Lehigh University, South Bethlehem, Pa.

A short time after entering his professional work as civil engineer, he was associated with the District of Columbia Engineering Department, where he became Assistant Engineer in the Supervisor's office, and the Engineer of Highways Division of that Department, leaving in November, 1911, to assume the position of Engineer of Highways and Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, of the City of Jacksonville.

During the World War, Mr. Ballenger acted in the capacity of Civil Aide to the Public Works officer at the Naval Operating Base at Hampton Roads, Virginia, and was in direct charge of all engineering problems and construction work for a period of two years. After the World War, he was associated with John Gill & Sons, of Cleveland, Ohio, and left this firm in 1922 to become general manager of the Wm. P. McDonald Construction Company operations in the State of Florida, and is now vice-president of this company.

The operations of this company during the years 1923 to 1927 included the building of thousands of miles of road in Polk, Hardee, Hillsborough, Manatee and De Soto Counties, and many other counties in the State of Florida. The Wm. P. McDonald Construction Company, which is one of the largest Road Construction firms in the United States, has the distinction, under Mr. Ballenger's direction, of what is probably the world's record for road-building in one month, having constructed in the month of November, 1926, approximately fifty miles of roads, aggregating nearly one million dollars in that one month of operation.

Mr. Ballenger has a very attractive home in Lakeland and anticipates making this his permanent home.

He was married to Miss Ruth Nolan, in Washington, D. C., on October 6, 1913, having four daughters—Helen Louise, Martha, Elizabeth, and Charlotte.

ZERNEY BARNES

Among Lakeland's constructive citizens, who was one of the city's major developers in the city's later period of growth, is Zerney Barnes, who, in partnership with W. L. Everhart, was among the first to catch the vision of a Greater Lakeland, and who transformed much unimproved lands into exclusive residential districts.

A native of the county, born in Bartow, September 30, 1894, the son of L. L. and Katherine Barnes, his ancestors on his mother's side were from Scotland, being among the early pioneers of South Carolina. On his paternal side, his ancestors hailed from Ireland, his grandfather being an early settler of Florida and a large plantation owner.

Mr. Barnes acquired his education at Summerlin Institute, the Winter Haven High School and the Baptist college at Lake City. For eleven years, with the exception of the time he served in the World War, he was connected with the Atlantic Coast Line Railway in the Commissary Department.

During the war, Mr. Barnes was commissioned an ensign in the Navy and assigned to sea service as assistant supply officer. At the conclusion of the war he resumed his position with the railroad, resigning in 1924 to engage in the real estate business, in which he was eminently successful. Among the high-class developments put on the market by Mr. Barnes' firm are Casa Bella and Olympian Park, in which are located some of the city's finest homes.

Mr. Barnes is a Scottish Rite Mason, a Shriner and a Knights Templar. He is a member of the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the Methodist church. He was married at Gainesville, Florida, June 30, 1924, to Eunice Inez Pipkin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Pipkin, of Mulberry. They have two sons, Zerney, Jr., and Richard Pipkin. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes own a handsome home on the north shore of Lake Hollingsworth, adjoining Olympian Park, which is one of the most admirably located places of residence in the city.

CHARLES H. BARNETT

C. H. BARNETT was born at Tatesville, Bedford county, Pennsylvania, March 22nd, 1883. He is a son of George and Catherine Barnett, who came to this country from England. Mr. Barnett spent his early childhood in Pennsylvania, and at the age of ten removed with his parents to Rockwood, Roane county, Tennessee, where he remained until 1911.

Following the completion of his educational training, which was received in the public schools of Tennessee and at business college, Mr. Barnett formed a connection with the Roane Iron Company, and remained with the firm ten years.

In 1911 he accepted a position with the West Construction Company, of Chattanooga, remaining with this firm 16 years, and gained valuable experience while working for this organization. Mr. Barnett came to Florida in 1924 for his firm, and for three years was engaged in building roads contracted for by the West Company. He was assistant treasurer for this company six years and had charge of financing the $2,250,000.00 worth work in Polk county, Florida, completed by the company; also the $3,000,000.00 worth work completed by the West Construction Co., in Lenoir county, North Carolina, and the State of North Carolina.

Mr. Barnett and E. T. Embry, whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, formed a partnership in 1926 and they confine their activities to the building of roads and streets. At the time this is written their principal project is the Vero Cross-State highway, and other projects totalling 40 miles completed in 1927.

Mr. Barnett is interested in the Concrete Pipe Co., manufacturers of concrete pipe, at Brooksville, Fla., and is an owner of real estate in Polk county; also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Bartow, Fla.

Mr. Barnett was married in 1914 to Rose Hudgens, of Anderson, South Carolina. They have one daughter, Catherine Celeste.

FRED O. BARROW

FRED O. BARROW was born at Sandersville, Georgia, October 3, 1901, the son of J. K. and Mattie (Tanner) Barrow. His paternal ancestors were from Ireland, and his maternal from England, both being pioneer citizens of North Carolina.

After graduating from Chatham Academy in 1917, Mr. Barrow graduated from the Southern College of Pharmacy in Atlanta as a pharmacist in 1919. For two years he was with the Knight Drug Company in Savannah, and for two years was a pharmacist of Lakeland, being first with the City Drug Store and later with the McMullen Drug Company.

In 1924 he went to Auburndale where he bought the City Drug Store of that place, later opening the Ariana Pharmacy, of which he is sole owner. In October, 1927, he opened Barrow's Pharmacy in Winter Haven, both of which stores he now operates.

Mr. Barrow is a Kiwanian, a Mason and a member of the Baptist church. He was married October 9, 1925, to Bertie Carlton at Rockmont, Georgia.

ARTHUR WEISER BENFORD

A. W. BENFORD, acting secretary of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, April 23, 1859. He is a son of Thornton Leroy and Mary Catherine (Hoffmeier) Benford, and a grandson of Charles F. Hoffmeier, who was a minister of the Reformed church.

When quite young, Mr. Benford removed with his parents to Illinois, and was educated in the schools of that State. At the age of sixteen years he became a mailcarrier at Washington, Illinois, and shortly thereafter entered the grain business at Peoria, where he remained thirty-five years. He spent eight years in this business at Chicago before he and his wife came to Lakeland, where their two sons are prominent merchants: Frederick Thornton, of the Benford Stationery Company, and Charles Franklin Benford, owner of the Benford Bootery.

Mr. and Mrs. Benford, the latter before her marriage in 1885 being Elizabeth Ann Hill, of Washington, Illinois, came to Lakeland in 1924, and since that time Mr. Benford has been connected with the Chamber of Commerce, being at the present time Acting Secretary of the organization.

FREDERICK THORNTON BENFORD

One of the most progressive, active and able business men of Lakeland is FRED T. BENFORD, who has owned and operated the leading book and stationery

store in this city since 1912. He was born in Peoria, Ill., February 25, 1888, and completed the high school course in his home city. His parents, A. W. and Elizabeth Benford, also make their home in Lakeland, his father being acting manager of the Chamber of Commerce.

His only experience in working for someone else was in Peoria, where for a period of six years he was connected with a wholesale shoe house. At the instance of the late Dr. W. H. Conibear, a life-long friend of the Benford family, he came to Lakeland in 1912 and bought the Lakeland Book Store, several years later changing the name to the Benford Stationery Co. The firm carries a complete line of stationery, office furniture, radios, phonographs, and books. Mr. Benford is the owner of broadcasting station WMBL, which has been instrumental in gaining much publicity for Lakeland and Polk County, being strong enough to be heard from Coast to Coast. The firm has recently moved into its handsome new quarters on South Kentucky avenue, and it is recognized as the best equipped store of its kind in the State.

Mr. Benford has always been recognized as a builder, and any project for the good of the community has been enthusiastically received by him. He is a director of the Interior Traffic Bureau, ex-president of the Merchants' Association, director of the Chamber of Commerce and a charter member of the Rotary Club. He is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Mr. and Mrs. Benford own a lovely home on South Success avenue. Before her marriage, Mrs. Benford was Katherine McCord Booth.

ED R. BENTLEY

Ed R. Bentley, member of the law firm of Judson & Bentley, Lakeland, and past President of Lakeland Bar Association and Secretary of the Conference of Delegates of the Florida State Bar Association, is a native of Valley View, Texas, born December 8, 1888. He is a son of C. E. and Grace (Holland) Bentley, the former a pioneer resident of Texas. He received his A. B. degree at Texas Christian University, afterwards studying law at the Universities of Texas and California. He took his LL.B. degree in this profession at Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee.

For several years he was Superintendent of city schools in various cities of Texas, and for a time held a college deanship. At the time of the entrance of the United States in the World War, Mr. Bentley enlisted in the infantry and was stationed at Camp Pike, Little Rock, Arkansas.

He came to Lakeland in 1925, and formed a partnership with Norman S. Stone; a year later he joined Ira C. Hopper and Carroll D. Judson. Mr. Hopper has since retired from the firm, which is now known as Judson & Bentley. He specializes in corporate law. The wisdom of his counsel and advice, his constructive intelligence and progressive standards, as well as his broad public spirit, are freely acknowledged and widely recognized.

Mr. Bentley has varied interest in matters pertaining to the welfare of his community. He is President of the Chamber of Commerce, an active force in the First Christian Church, and Commander of the local American Legion Post. In connection with the latter organization, he is chairman of the State Committee on

Education. He is a member of the Masons, Shriner, Rotary Club and Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity.

Mr. Bentley was married in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on October 30th, 1924, to Edythe Bryan.

WILLIAM F. BEVIS

WILLIAM F. BEVIS, of Bartow, was born October 23, 1893, at Bascom, Jackson county, Florida. His parents were Robert F. and Emily Bevis, the former from Georgia, the latter from North Carolina.

Mr. Bevis received his higher education at the University of Florida.

Coming to Bartow, he was with the Polk County Abstract Company for seven years, and with the Polk County National Bank for six years, being assistant cashier and trust officer of the latter institution.

Having been admitted to the bar, Mr. Bevis began the practice of law in 1926, and is associated with Judge S. L. Holland, the firm having a large and lucrative practice.

Mr. Bevis is a member of the County Bar Association, is vice-president of the Kiwanis Club, is a member of the Kappa Alpha college fraternity, is a Mason and Shriner, and a director of the Polk County National Bank. He is a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Bevis was married on June 18, 1919, at Greenwood, South Carolina, to Augusta Blake.

WILLIAM MARION BEVIS

WILLIAM MARION BEVIS was born in Bascom, Jackson county, Florida, October 16, 1882, the son of William Allen and Julia Grant Bevis.

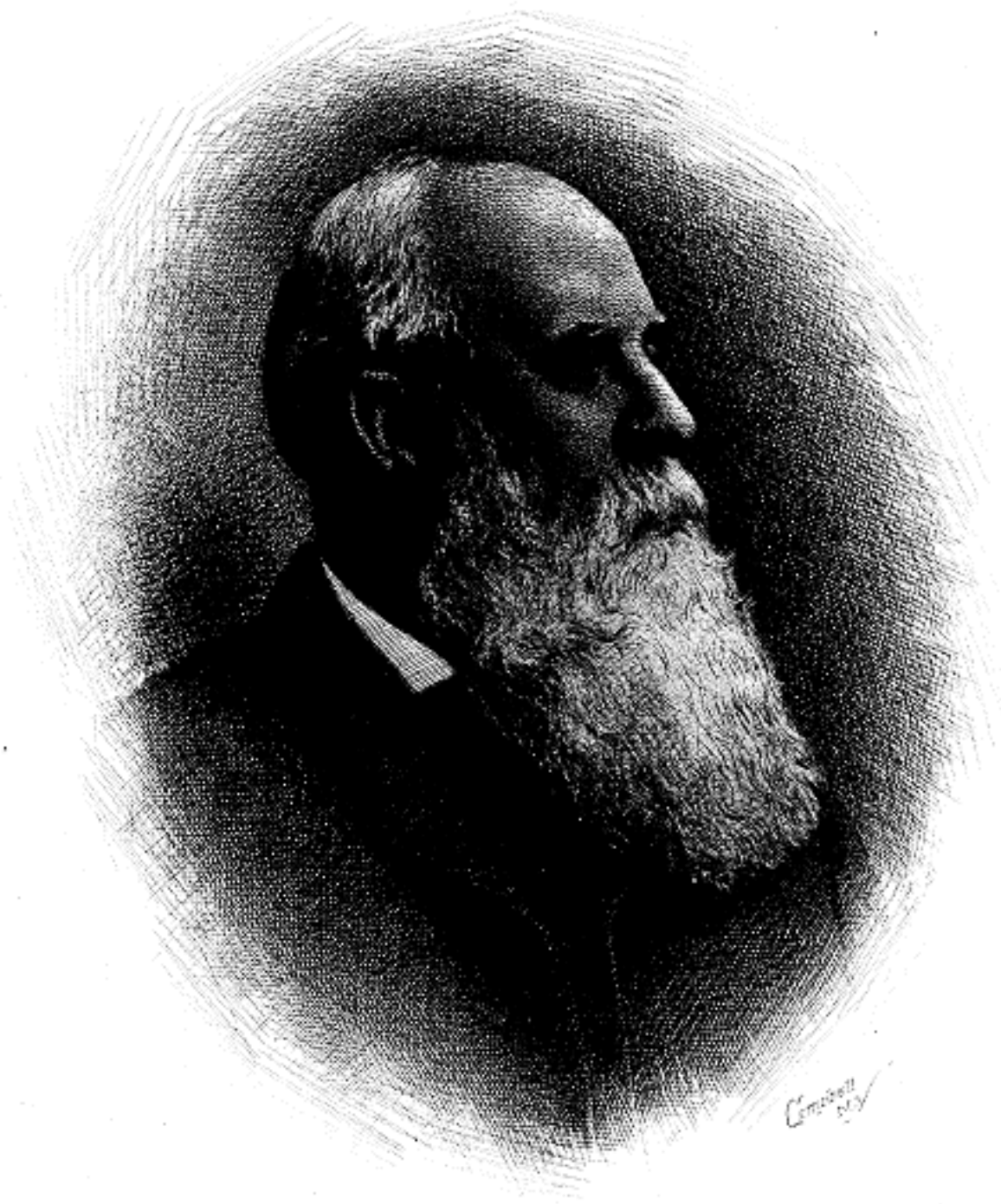
His first higher education was gained at the State Normal at DeFuniak Springs, Florida, and in 1908 he graduated in medicine from the University of Tennessee at Nashville.

Prior to taking up the practice of medicine he taught school for one year at Fort Myers in 1903. Coming to Lakeland in 1909 Dr. Bevis opened offices and practiced medicine for seven years until 1916 when he was appointed a member of the medical staff of the Florida State Hospital at Chattahoochee. He remained there four years when he went to Washington, D. C., where he was a member of the staff of St. Elizabeth's Hospital for a year.

In 1921 he was commissioned as Passed Assistant Surgeon in the U. S. Public Health service and was assigned to active duty as Psychiatrist in the Government Hospital at Augusta, Georgia, later being transferred, in the same capacity, to government hospitals at Little Rock, Arkansas, and Perry Point, Maryland.

He returned to Polk county late in 1925 to organize and direct the Polk County Health Unit, which position of importance he now holds. Dr. Bevis is recognized as one of the leading authorities of the State on mental and nervous diseases and all branches of Social Work, and has made an enviable record. At present Dr. Bevis is a member of the Consulting Staff, Morrell Memorial Hospital, Lakeland.

Dr. Bevis was married April 11, 1909, to Susie E. Davis, of Marion, South Carolina. They have one son, Marion Leonard.



H. B. Brooks

KELSEY BLANTON

JAMES KELSEY BLANTON, commonly known as Kelsey Blanton, prominent member of the Polk County legal fraternity, was born in Hillsborough county, Florida, May 29, 1876, the son of James J. and Mary Frances Blanton. His father came to Florida from Georgia at the close of the Civil War, his mother's family coming to Florida from the same State, prior to the second Seminole Indian war.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the schools of Hillsborough county, graduating later from Stetson University with an LL. B. degree. He began the practice of law in Tampa in 1906, continuing until 1911, when he removed to Lakeland. In 1916 he was elected County Judge, serving for four years.

Judge Blanton is an Elk and a Woodman of the World. He was married September 10th, 1913, at Winchester, Tennessee, to Miss May Williams. They have one son, James Kelsey, Jr.

JOSEPH R. BOLEY

J. R. BOLEY, for many years a resident of Lake Alfred, was born in the State of Kentucky in 1862, the son of Benjamin F. and Virginia Boley.

His boyhood days were spent in Kentucky, and at the age of 20 years he removed to Kansas City, Missouri, and engaged in the flour milling business.

Mr. Boley came to Lake Alfred in 1910 and purchased a young orange grove. He planted more trees, and at one time was one of the largest growers in that section. He has since disposed of the majority of his citrus holdings, and devotes his time to his real estate and insurance agency.

Mr. Boley is a director of the Lake Alfred Citrus Exchange, and of the Lake Alfred State Bank. He served on the old city council for eight years, and, under the new form of government, is a city commissioner.

Mr. Boley has been a member of the Woodmen of the World for 31 years and attends the Baptist church of his home city.

Mr. Boley was married in Kentucky to Miss Mittie A. Coursey. His first wife died in 1916, he has since married Miss Maymie L. Fortner of Polk County, Florida.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM B. BONACKER

The pages of history reveal outstanding figures in every age and in every locality—those who have hewn the way and paved the road for those who are to come after—and who, by their exemplary lives and high standards of citizenship, have left to posterity a heritage above price. Such a man was Captain William B. Bonacker, one of Lakeland's first citizens, who came to that section in a covered wagon in 1883, before the advent of the railroad, and who was a leading factor in the early growth and development of that community, and a highly honored and esteemed citizen for twenty-eight years, until his death in 1911.

Identified with every movement of importance in Lakeland's history during its formative period, Captain Bonacker gave freely of his time and means in the work of transforming the unbroken forest, as he found it, into the thriving, growing community, on the eve of far greater development, as he left it, and though the work of carrying on has fallen on other shoulders, the Bonacker name will ever hold a prominent and an honored place in Lakeland's history.

Captain Bonacker on March 23, 1884, erected Lakeland's first business house, and soon after erected his large and commodious home, which still stands in the center of the business section at the corner of Kentucky avenue and Lemon street. He served as city councilman and president of the Board; was also a member of the School Board and a county commissioner for seven years.

Born in Germany, November 15, 1834, the son of William and Dorothea (Bostert) Bonacker, he came to this country with his parents when only seven months of age, the family locating at Baltimore for a time, later settling permanently in Johnstown, Pa., where Capt. Bonacker was reared and educated.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Capt. Bonacker was general manager of the Johnstown Foundry and Machine Shop. This he closed to enter the war on April 20, 1861. He served for three months as 1st Sergeant of Company F, Third Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, of Johnstown, Cambria county, and was mustered out July 29, 1861. He then formed Company I of the 54th Regiment, of which he was Captain, and in which he served throughout the war. He was wounded in the Battle of New Market, Virginia, May 15, 1864.

After the war he again entered business, resigning as general manager of the Johnstown Mechanical Works in 1870 to become Sheriff, which office he held for three years. He was interested in the Ashtola Lumber Co., and was one of the incorporators of the Johnstown Water Co.

He was identified with various civic organizations of Lakeland, was a member of the Episcopal church, a Mason and an Odd Fellow. He was married December 22, 1864, to Elizabeth King Andrews, of Johnstown, Pa. Seven children were born to this union: Charles S., of Pensacola; William A., Harry (deceased), John H., Alice K. (Mrs. W. Guy Wilson), Wesley R., and Dora (Mrs. J. S. Helms), all of Tampa.

In the death of Captain Bonacker, which occurred in Lakeland May 4, 1911, his associates lost a true friend—the community one of its most worth-while and substantial citizens.

CLARENCE A. BOSWELL

C. A. BOSWELL, a pioneer citizen of the county, and in point of service one of the oldest lawyers in South Florida, was born in Lee County, Alabama, in 1870.

He is a son of William M. and Achsah E. (Scott) Boswell, who removed to Lakeland in 1886, and were leading figures in the life of that community in the early days.

Judge Boswell was educated in the schools of Alabama and Lakeland, and received his law training in the offices of Tucker and Tucker and through a correspondence course from the Sprague School of Law.

He has been engaged in the practice of his profession since 1897, and in 1898 formed a partnership with Solon G. Wilson, the firm being known as Wilson & Boswell.

Judge Boswell was Mayor of Lakeland several years, and during his administration planted out the trees in Munn Park, being assisted in this work by Tom Marshall. He was elected county judge in 1897 and served two terms. He is an ardent Democrat, and for twelve years was Chairman of the County Executive

Committee. At the time this is written he is secretary and treasurer of this organization, and is a member of the State Executive Democratic Committee.

He is a member of the County and State Bar Associations, and fraternally is an Elk, K. of P., and a Mason.

On September 2, 1897, he married Sue H. Hood, of Bartow. They have four children: Clarence A., Jr., Martha, Frances and Elaine.

E. M. BOYD

E. M. Boyd, prominent citrus grower of Eagle Lake, was born in Lumber City, Georgia, the son of Thomas C. and Theresa E. Boyd.

After acquiring his education in the schools of Georgia, Mr. Boyd engaged in the banking business at Blakely, Georgia, until 1905, when he came to Florida, locating in the western part of the State, where he engaged in the turpentine business.

Desiring to raise citrus fruit on a large scale, he came to Polk County, selecting Eagle Lake as his home, where he purchased a tract of 75 acres, which he planted to grove. He later bought an additional 15 acres of grove, which gives him 90 acres in citrus fruit. His wife also owns 30 acres of grove, which gives them a total of 120 acres, in which they have a very valuable property, indeed. The majority of the fruit is of the Valencia variety, with some grapefruit and tangerines. Mr. Boyd is prominently identified with the citrus industry of the county, and is vice-president of the Eagle Lake Citrus Exchange.

Mr. Boyd was a member of the city council of Blakely, Georgia. Fraternally, he is a Mason and a Shriner.

He was married in Georgia to Myrtice McMichael, who is now deceased. Three children were born to this union: Thomas M., William G., and Nan T. He married Mrs. Ethel C. Swearingen, of Winter Haven, Florida, in September, 1926, and the latter has two children, Harold G. and Mildred E. Swearingen.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN BOYD

Numbered among the most prosperous and successful citizens of Winter Haven is W. F. Boyd, founder and former owner of the Winter Haven Water and Ice Company. For several years he has been interested in citrus growing and has over $200,000 invested in groves.

Mr. Boyd is a native of Tennessee, born in Marshall county, March 4, 1872, the son of L. B. and Rosina S. Boyd. At the age of ten, he came to Winter Haven with his parents, the move being made in the hope of benefiting the health of his mother. Their home was known as Boyd's Homestead, and is now in the city limits of Winter Haven; thirty acres of this property planted in citrus in 1883, was killed in the freeze of '95, was rebudded and brought back, and after the death of Mr. Boyd's father was sold for $55,000. Later Mr. Boyd bought it for $42,000, and resold it for $80,000. The land cost his father $14.00 and this transaction is an interesting example of the rise in values of the land in that section.

W. F. Boyd received his first business experience dealing in phosphate. Later he built and operated five dredges; he did some important work at Pass-a-Grille, and dredged and filled in the land along Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa.

He came back to Winter Haven in 1909 and established the Water, Ice and Light Plant, and lacking capital, began with money loaned him by the Snell Bank. He owned and operated the plant until 1922, when he sold out to Stone and Webster for over $300,000. He deposited a check in the Snell National Bank for $280,000, said to be the largest single check ever deposited by a customer, thus setting a record in banking circles of this section. Mr. Boyd started business with thirty water and light customers, and sold about one ton of ice per week. He constantly improved and increased the facilities of the plant, and, in so doing, spent more money than he made. He attributes his success to hard work and determination, and to the fact that he always kept his credit good at the bank.

Mr. Boyd is ex-Mayor of his city, and has also served as Commissioner. He was married in 1910 to Creola Lameraux.

R. E. BRADLEY

R. E. BRADLEY was born in Huntsville, Kentucky, February 22, 1898, the son of E. and Addie Bradley.

After attending the schools of Kentucky, Mr. Bradley, having become a citizen of Florida in 1915, graduated in law from Stetson University, DeLand, in 1920. He began the practice of law in Palmetto, where he remained until 1923, when he moved to Lake Wales, where he has since resided, and where he has built up a good practice.

During the World War, Mr. Bradley was a Lieutenant in the pay corps of the U. S. Navy, and was stationed at Charleston, South Carolina. He is past-president of the Kiwanis Club, a member of the County Bar Association, a Mason, K. of P., and an Odd Fellow. He is a member of the Sigma Nu college fraternity, and the Sigma Nu Phi legal fraternity.

Mr. Bradley's wife is May L. Bradley, and they have one son, R. E., Jr.

HARRY H. BRENNER

Among the newer residents of the county who are doing things in a large way is HARRY H. BRENNER, president of the Davenport Lumber & Supply Company, who established this business in 1925.

He was born in Fairfield, Ohio, April 3, 1877, the son of George H. and Mary Brenner.

For some time prior to his removal to Florida, Mr. Brenner was connected with the Cooper Corporation, of Cincinnati, manufacturer of tires.

Realizing the possibilities of Florida, he came to this State in 1925, and formed his company which manufactures blocks, bricks and stucco, and handles lumber. He has a mill for grinding colors for the bricks, and this is also located at Davenport. About 85 per cent. of the material used in building the city hall at Davenport was furnished by his company.

Mr. Brenner is president of the Business Men's Association of Davenport, and is a Mason, Shriner, and Knight of Pythias. He owns valuable property in the county, including an orange grove.

He was married in Dayton, Ohio, to Bessie Davis. They have five children, Corrine and Clyde, of Cincinnati, and Dorothy, Amy and Irene, of Davenport.

HENRY E. BRIDGES

Henry E. Bridges was born in Polk county, September 4, 1891, the son of David C. and Mary M. Bridges.

His public school education was supplemented with a course at the Massey Business College, Jacksonville, Florida.

At an early age Mr. Bridges was associated in business with J. D. Rogells, who conducted a mercantile establishment at Kathleen. He later was in the fruit marketing business.

He entered his choice vocation in life—the real estate business—in 1915, being associated in business with H. J. Lewis, the two forming one of the strongest realty firms in the county, their wide knowledge of conditions and long residence making their advice to prospective buyers of great assistance in selecting a home or in making an investment.

Mr. Bridges is a member of the National, State and Local Realtors Association, is a 32nd degree Mason, a Shriner and an Elk.

He was married September 25th, 1912, to Norene Tilton, of South Carolina. They have six children: Carey Elmo, Edna Bernice, Charles Leslie, Dannie Carvell, Annie Elice, and Harry J.

MRS. HARRY BROWN

Recognized as a leader in her profession, Bartowans feel fortunate, indeed, in securing the services of Mrs. Harry Brown as superintendent of the Bartow General Hospital, completed February 1st, last.

Mary Connoley Brown was born at Moultrie, Georgia, the daughter of L. J. and Anna Connoley. In her early childhood her parents removed to Orlando, where her father practiced at the bar until his death in 1910. She attended the schools of Orlando and later graduated from the Nurses' Training School at the Thompson Hospital, Lumberton, North Carolina. She also took post-graduate work in an eye and ear infirmary in New York City and a special course in chemistry and bacteriology at Columbia University.

Several years ago Mrs. Brown, then Mary D. Connoley, came to Lakeland to take the position of superintendent of Morrell Memorial Hospital. Three years ago she married Harry L. Brown, former owner of the *Lakeland Star-Telegram,* and resigned to devote herself to home affairs. Later, however, she took a special course in anaesthesia at Howard Hospital in Philadelphia and received an appointment as anaesthetist in the University of Pennsylvania Hospital.

Mrs. Brown assumed her present duties on March 1st. This hospital is said to be one of the most complete in the South.

WILLIAM H. BROWN

William H. Brown was born near Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1872, the son of W. H. Brown. His father served in the Civil War with distinction, having the rank of Captain. He was the owner of a large plantation near Wilmington.

Mr. Brown first came to Florida in 1900, making his home at that time at Punta Gorda. He later engaged in the manufacturing business in Jacksonville, and in 1926 removed to Frostproof to manage the Mallett-Brown Company, in

which he owns a one-half interest. This company has large orange interests, and also handles fertilizer and insecticides on a large scale. They represent Lyons Fertilizer Co. of Tampa and Wilson & Toomer of Jacksonville.

Mr. Brown is president of the Frostpoof Citrus Exchange, and is a member of the Rotary Club.

He was married in North Carolina to Almira Parker. They have three children, William D., a lieutenant-commander in the U. S. Navy; Thomas O., of Frostproof, and Mrs. S. G. Hicks, of Jacksonville.

LEON G. BRUCE

LEON G. BRUCE, owner and manager of the Coca-Cola Bottling plants of Bartow and Winter Haven, is a Georgian, born at Rochelle, February 15, 1890. He is a son of Silas J. Augustine Bruce, the latter a veteran of the War Between the States. Mr. Bruce received a splendid public school education in the Irvin County, Georgia, schools, and when quite a young man engaged in the sawmill business.

Prior to coming to Florida he conducted a bottling business in Georgia and received valuable experience in this line. He made his home in Lakeland for two years, and upon moving to Bartow in 1914, assumed management of his present business. This firm thoroughly covers the eastern part of the county, and has an output of a million and a half bottles per year.

Mr. Bruce has not only been a splendid business man but has given generously of his time and money to civic matters. In addition to other services he has been one of the city commissioners for three years.

Mr. Bruce is a Mason, Shriner, K. of P. and Odd Fellow. He was married in Georgia to Josie Inman and they have three children: Eloise, Leon G., Jr., and James L.

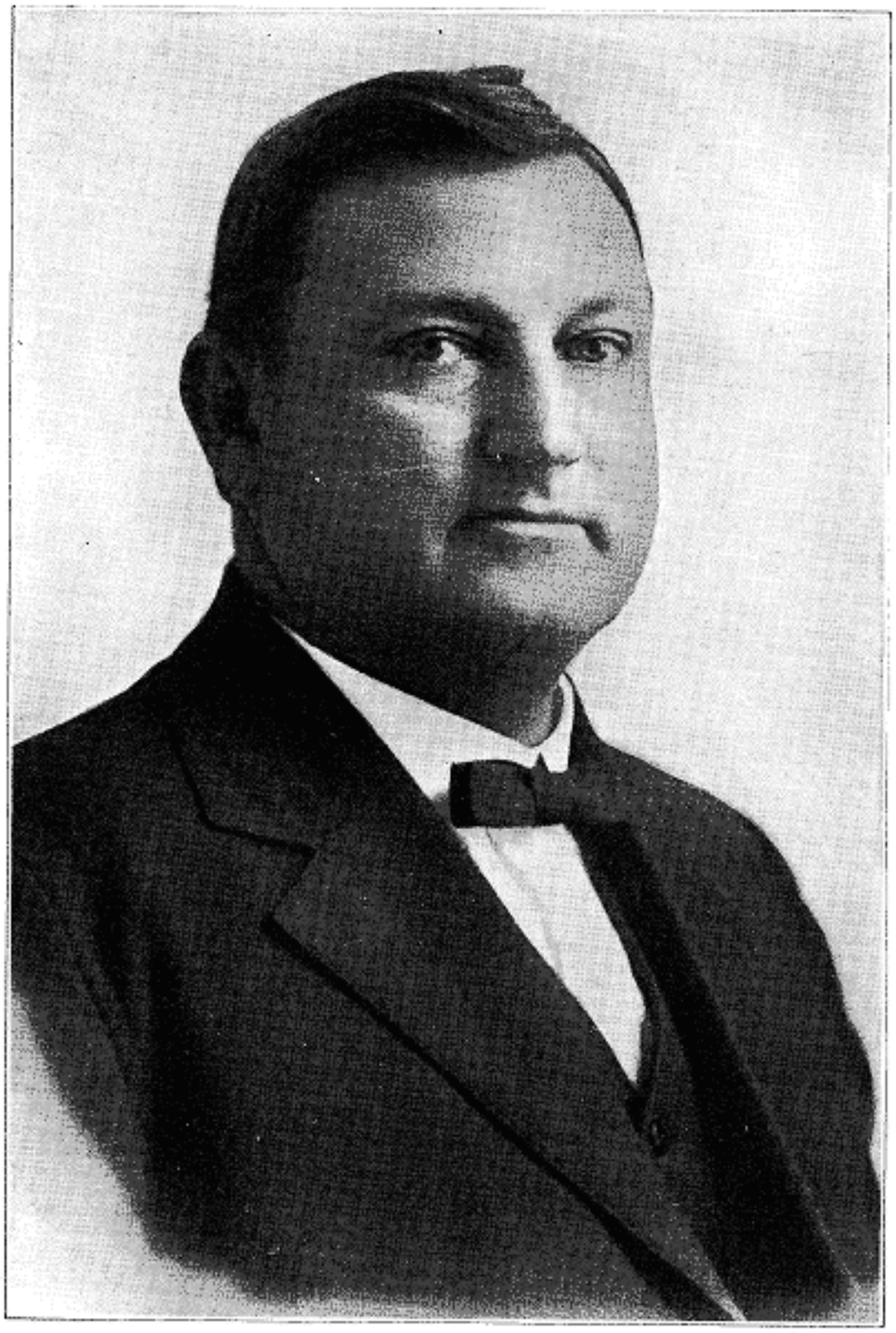
EMORY BRYANT

A resident of Polk county for nearly sixty years, Emory Bryant has seen the forests give way to the march of progress, and cities, towns and villages spring into existence, filled with progressive citizens from all sections of the United States.

Mr. Bryant was born at Lake City, Florida, November 30, 1865, the son of Thomas and Susan (Niblack) Bryant. With his parents he removed to Polk county in 1869, and after receiving his education in the schools of the county, he engaged in farming operations until 1904 when he settled in Lakeland, specializing in real estate, also operating a popular billiard room. Two of Lakeland's first subdivisions were put on the market by Mr. Bryant in the city's early days. He owns a handsome home on the shores of Lake Wire and much other valuable property.

Mr. Bryant was married June 19, 1889, to Nellie Blocker, of Plant City. Six children were born to this union: Thomas W. Bryant, well-known Lakeland attorney and member of the Florida Legislature; Emory Leroy, Olin G., Charles Edward, Cecil Bernice, and Vivian Gray.

Three of Mr. Bryant's sons were in the World War—one in the Merchant Marine, one overseas, and one in the artillery.



Emory Bryant

J. WESLEY BRYANT

Probably no man in Polk County was more prominently identified with its affairs during a long period of time than was J. Wesley Bryant, who for 68 years was a resident of the county and a leader in its political and financial circles.

Mr. Bryant was born in Columbia County, Florida, November 10, 1845, the son of John and Myram (Osteen) Bryant, both of the latter being native Floridians. At the age of twelve years, he came to Polk County with his parents, and when fifteen years old enlisted in the Civil War as a member of Capt. Pyles' company and later was a member of Capt. Leslie's company.

For sixty years Mr. Bryant lived at Orangedale, north of Lakeland, the last fourteen or fifteen years of his life being spent as a resident of Lakeland.

Coming here when the whole county was a trackless wilderness, Mr. Bryant, by his native ability and shrewd management, amassed a large fortune, the foundation of which was gained in the cattle business, Mr. Bryant having been a pioneer stockman of the county. He later made wise investments, and was regarded as one of the county's leading financiers. For many years prior to his death he was vice-president of the First National Bank of Lakeland and chairman of the board.

Mr. Bryant represented Polk County for several years in the Florida Legislature, and was the first Senator from the county after it became a senatorial district. He was an active member of the Masonic order, being the last surviving charter member of the Ebenezer Lodge of Kathleen.

Mr. Bryant was married three times: his first wife, before her marriage was Myram Hancock. Four children were born to this union: Manuel A., Texas (dead), La Fayette (dead), Georgia (dead). He next married Julia A. Holly, now deceased, and one daughter, Alice L., wife of Mr. Reid Robson, was born to this union. The present Mrs. Bryant, nee Ruth Robinson, makes her home in Lakeland, and has two young daughters, Julia May and Katherine Elva Bryant.

Mr. Bryant died at Lakeland December 8, 1926.

ROBERT BRYANT

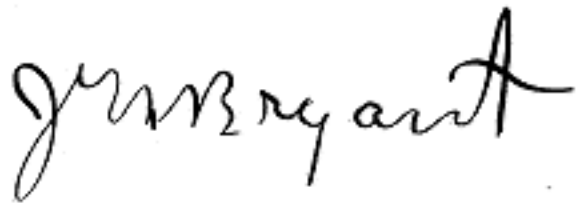
That success will not be denied to the man who has a certain amount of business ability and is willing to work and work hard, is demonstrated by a review of the life of Robert Bryant, who lived in Polk County 56 years.

He was born in Lake City, October 2, 1849, the son of Thomas and Susan Bryant, the former from Georgia and the latter a nativie of this State. Robert Bryant was one of a family of thirteen, all of whom assisted in the upkeep of the home. He attended the school at Lake City one year, the remainder of his education being received at home. In 1869 the family removed to Socrum, where Thomas Bryant took up a homestead.

Robert Bryant was a merchant of Kathleen for 25 years, and had large cattle interests. He came to Lakeland in 1903, and became a large property owner and builder. He and W. D. McRae developed two important sub-divisions and gave the site for the Lakeland High School to the county.

In 1904 Mr. Bryant built a large business house, the Bryant building, occupied by Jewett's drug store and other concerns, with offices above. In 1913 he and C. W. Deen erected the Deen-Bryant building, corner of Kentucky avenue and





Main street, and in 1924 Mr. Bryant rebuilt the Adams' building and erected a building at the corner of Pine street and Florida avenue. He was reputed to be one of the wealthiest men of the county.

Although a member of no denomination, Mr. Bryant gave liberally to every church in Lakeland. He was keenly interested in governmental matters, but never sought public office.

He died in Lakeland May 29, 1925.

THOMAS W. BRYANT

THOMAS W. BRYANT, a leading member of the Polk County bar, and at present serving his third term as Representative from Polk County in the Florida Legislature, has achieved success and distinction while yet quite a young man. In addition to his fine record in civil life, he has to his credt an active military career, having served his country in the World War on the fields of France. He enlisted in January, 1918, being assigned to duty with the Second Battalion of the 319th Field Artillery, 82nd Division. He participated in the battles of St. Mihiel, the Argonne Forest, and the Argonne-Meuse campaigns.

Mr. Bryant was born in Polk County, March 28, 1890, the son of Emory and Nellie (Blocker) Bryant. He is a member of a distinguished Florida pioneer family, his grandfather, Thomas Bryant, having come to the State as a soldier in the Indian Wars, being a veteran of two of these wars, and also serving in the Confederate army. His father is a native of Columbia County, but was among the early settlers of Polk. His mother, Nellie Blocker, is a native of Florida, as was also her father, S. W. Blocker.

Mr. Bryant graduated from the schools of Lakeland after which he took both the literary and law courses at the University of Florida, receiving his degrees in 1915. He was admitted to the bar the same year, becoming a member of the law firm of Whitney, Spencer & Bryant. The war interrupted his legal career, which was resumed with the advent of peace, and for some years he has been senior member of the firm of Bryant & Trantham, which enjoys the patronage and confidence of an extensive and influential clientele.

In 1922 he was elected to the Florida Legislature, and at once won recognition as one of the outstanding members of that body. He was re-elected in 1924, and again in 1926.

Mr. Bryant is a member of Lakeland Lodge No. 1291, B. P. O. E. He is a director of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, and is otherwise prominent in the civic life of the community. He was married in 1920 to Miss Lydia Steitz, daughter of John and Lydia Steitz, of Lakeland. They have three daughters, Margaret, Nell and Betty.

F. C. BUCHANAN

F. C. BUCHANAN, prominent citizen of Lake Wales, was born in Torrey, Florida, December 29, 1895, the son of S. Terrill and Elizabeth H. Buchanan.

Mr. Buchanan was educated in the schools of Jacksonville, and began the study of law at the age of 17 years, but never practiced.

In 1918 Mr. Buchanan engaged in the automobile business in Orlando under



Robt Bryant

the firm name of Buchanan Bros., having the Paige agency in that city. He remained there for two years before coming to Polk county.

Mr. Buchanan picked Lake Wales as a winner, locating in that city in 1920, at once becoming a factor in that hustling town's development. He is president of the F. C. Buchanan Corporation, which has the Buick agency and handles all kinds of automobile accessories and supplies. He is president of F. C. Buchanan, Inc., specializing in real estate and property management. He is also president of the Tocoboca Corporation, another real estate company which has large holdings.

Mr. Buchanan is vice-president of the Citizens Bank of Lake Wales; is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club. Fraternally, he is an Elk, a Mason, a Knight of Pythias and a Shriner.

He was married September 5, 1925, at Lake Wales to Marion P. Hunt. They have one little daughter, Betty Frances, aged one year.

JOHN W. BUCHANAN, JR.

A FLORIDIAN, not by adoption but by birth, and proud of it, one of Lakeland's leading citizens, John W. Buchanan, Jr., was born at Wellborn, December 23, 1879, the son of John W. and Mary Alice (Murdock) Buchanan.

Mr. Buchanan's father, who was a railroad man (road master), came to South Florida in 1886, the family locating at Bartow. Mr. Buchanan's first business experience was in Tampa where he was assistant ticket agent for the A. C. L. railway, coming to Lakeland in 1901 where he served the road as ticket agent for two years.

With his father he engaged in the restaurant business in Lakeland, which he has successfully conducted for the past twenty-five years, the Buchanan restaurant being the oldest in Polk county, and the second oldest in the State, in point of continuous ownership. Besides owning the restaurant Mr. Buchanan owns a one-half interest in the Buchanan Hotel.

Mr. Buchanan has served Lakeland as City Commissioner for five years, one year of which term he was mayor. It was during his regime as mayor that Lakeland's civic building program was inaugurated and later carried to completion involving an expenditure of about $9,000,000 for city hall, municipal auditorium, municipal hospital, fire station, sewerage plant, athletic field, colored hospital, 80 miles of additional streets and the selection of two additional city parks.

Mr. Buchanan is a director of the First National Bank, ex-director of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, a Mason and Shriner, life member of the Elks and a member of the K. of P.

He was married February 17, 1903, to Emma Domingus, of Alabama, and they have two children, Mary Frances and Charnelle.

B. K. BULLARD

A man of large affairs and one who has a deep interest in matters pertaining to the welfare of the county, is B. K. Bullard, one of the founders of Lake Wales, and for the past six years a representative in the State Legislature.

He was born in Graham county, Georgia, October 7, 1881, the son of B. F. and Amorette (Kennedy) Bullard. He was reared in Savannah, and received his

education at Crowther's private school of that city, and the Gordon Institute at Barnesville, Georgia.

From 1902 until 1910 he resided in Tampa and Jacksonville, where he was engaged in the wholesale grocery and naval stores business. In November of the latter year he came to Lake Wales, since which time he has been a recognized factor in financial and business circles of that city. He is vice-president of the Lake Wales State Bank, and was instrumental in the building of 80 per cent of the business houses of Lake Wales, among them being his own, the handsome Bullard building.

Mr. Bullard has been a member of the State Legislature since 1922, and in the June primary was re-elected by a large majority, proving that the people realize they are being ably represented. He is one of the State's most enthusiastic believers, and is a man of unquestioned integrity.

He is a Mason, Shriner and Elk and worships at the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Bullard and Nannie Lacy Butler were married in Charlestown, West Virginia, January 25, 1905. Their children are Bern K., Jr., Henry B., Douglas B. and Amorette.

THOMAS E. BURDETTE

THOMAS E. BURDETTE may well be called the dean of Polk county automobile men, having been identified with this business the greater part of his life, and established in this connection in Polk county since 1908.

He was born at Parkersburg, West Virginia, in 1885, the son of Thomas and Mary E. Burdette, and received his education in the schools of that State. In 1903 he came to Tampa to engage in automobile work, then a new industry, and removed to Lakeland five years later, opening the first garage in that city. In 1910 he was appointed agent for Ford cars, thereby becoming the first man in the county to handle this car.

He established a Ford agency in Bartow in 1913, and since that time has made his home there. He disposed of his Ford agency in 1920, and acquired the Hudson-Essex company, incorporating the business four years later, the firm doing business as the Bartow Motor Company. Mr. Burdette is the largest stockholder, and is president and manager of the company.

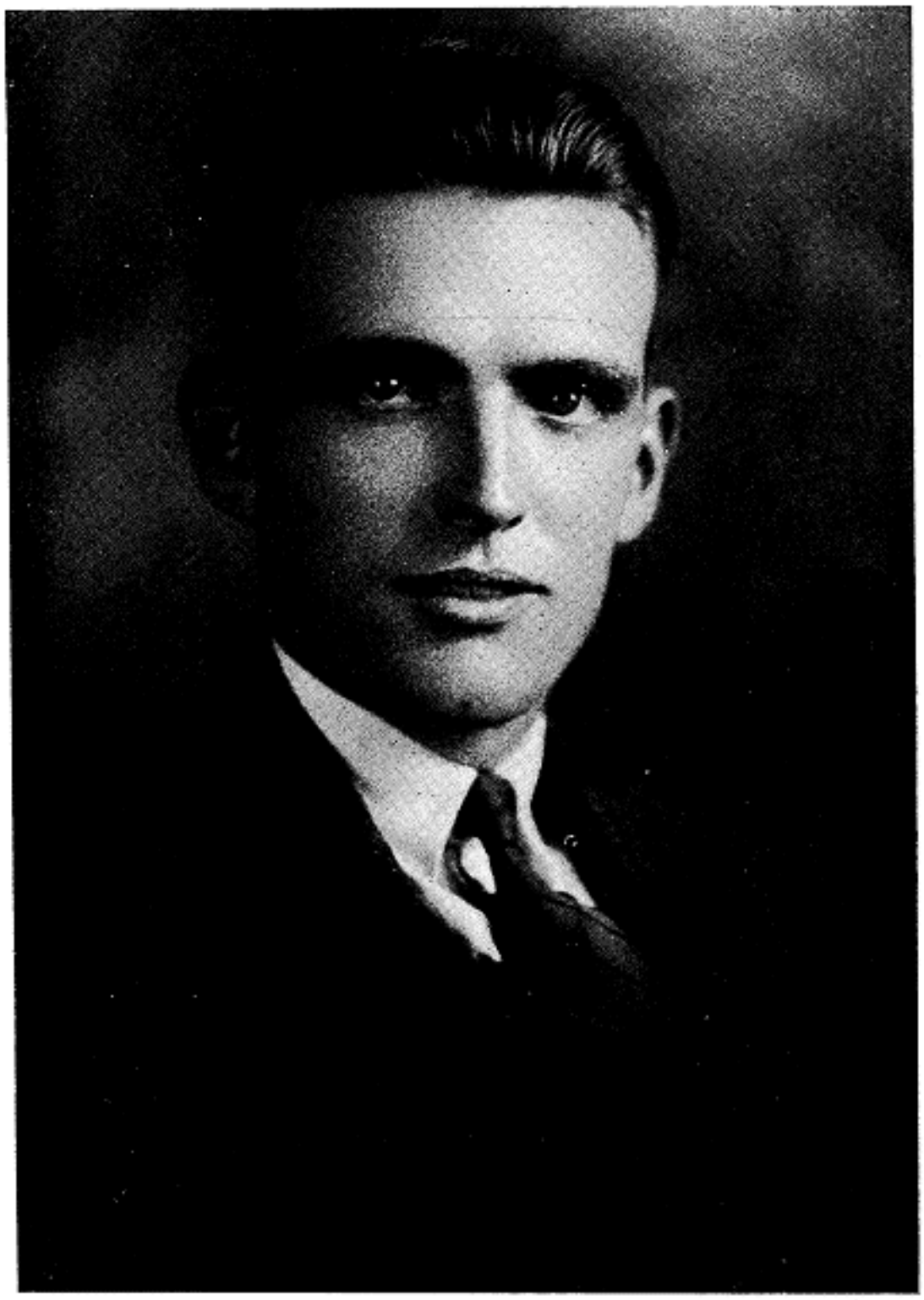
He was married at Fort Meade, 1915, to Mary C. Cole, member of an old Polk County family. They have one daughter, Patricia, aged six, who was born at Bartow.

Mr. Burdette is an ardent booster for his city, and is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce.

NICK BURNS

The combination of a friendly manner, keen sense of humor and the ability to judge human nature correctly, coupled with ambition and hard work, has made Nick Burns, at 29 years of age, one of the outstanding developers of Florida. Mr. Burns is a native of the old country, having been born in Ardee, Ireland, January 1, 1899, the son of James and Mary Smith Burns.

After finishing his schooling at St. Patrick's college, he came to the United States, arriving in New York, March 1, 1920, with $5.00 in his pocket. The



Erich Brandt

following year he engaged in the real estate business in Miami, entering a field in which he had no previous training, but, as his success attests, a natural aptitude.

In 1922 he opened offices in Lakeland at 324 East Main street, doing business as the Burns Development Company. "Country Club Estates," "Lake Gibson Heights," "South Florida Avenue Heights" and "Westwego" are his own enterprises and have been highly popular with prospective home-builders. In the comparatively short time Mr. Burns has been in the real estate game he has signed 3,800 deeds.

He is vitally interested in civic matters and is president of the Civitan Club, a member of the Lakeland Real Estate Board and the Chamber of Commerce. He also belongs to the Old Colony Club, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Cleveland Heights Golf and Country Club and the Lakeland Country Club. Mr. Burns is a golf enthusiast and is frequently seen on the links of the last named places.

Mr. Burns was married in Tampa on February 1, 1923, to Carmen L. Futch. They have one child, Nick, Jr.

T. HARRIS BURRUSS

T. HARRIS BURRUSS, one of Lakeland's successful lawyers, member of the firm of Callaway and Burruss, is a native of Lake City, South Carolina, born March 5, 1889, the son of Thomas Harris and Minnie (Perry) Burruss.

After graduating from the schools of Madison, Georgia, where, with his parents he removed when quite young, Mr. Burruss studied civil engineering at Mississippi A. & M. College. He then decided to become a lawyer and pursued this line of study at the University of Kentucky, receiving the degrees of LL. B. and M.L.

Mr. Burruss practiced at Madison from 1912 until 1922, when he came to Lakeland. The firm, of which he is a member, is one of the best known in this section.

Mr. Burruss is a Mason, an Elk, K. of P. and belongs to the Kiwanis Club, both Country Clubs and the Baptist church.

ROBERT A. BURTON

ROBERT A. BURTON was born at White Springs, Florida, December 12, 1893, the son of Willie Thomas and Bessie (Harrell) Burton. His paternal ancestors were English, coming to Virginia in the early days, later settling in South Georgia.

His maternal grandfather was Colonel Enoch Hall, an Indian fighter in the 81st Regiment of Georgia Militia in the year of 1836, and Lyman Hall, one of his ancestors, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

He received his education at White Springs and Madison of this State. After attending school in Georgia for two years he entered the law office of Col. James Humphreys, of Moultrie, Georgia, and at the break of war enlisted in the U. S. Army, and served on the Mexican border until May 14, 1919. After being honorably discharged at San Antonio, Texas, he went to California, where he again took up the study of law. Returning to Moultrie, Ga., in 1921, he again took up the study of law in the office of Hill & Gibson, and in 1923 came to Lakeland, Polk County,

Florida, and continued the study of law with Childers and Ragan, Childers and Howell, and later with W. J. DeLoach.

He was admitted to the Supreme Court of Florida on May 5, 1925, and in April, 1927, was admitted to practice in the District Court of the United States at Jacksonville, Florida. He has been engaged in the practice of law, independently, since being admitted.

Mr. Burton is a member of the American Legion Post No. 4, and is a member of the Odd Fellows and Moose Lodges.

He was married May 31, 1924, to Anna Mae Edenfield of Lakeland, Florida.

LEONARD CALDWELL

LEONARD CALDWELL was born in Randolph county, Alabama, November 17, 1884, the son of William Robert and Susan Frances Caldwell.

Mr. Caldwell was reared on a farm, receiving his education in the schools of Alabama. In 1912 he came to Polk county and located at Nichols, where he was employed as clerk in charge of the commissary department of the Phosphate Mining Company. He started in as a clerk at $60 per month, but soon became manager of the commissary. In 1924 he and associates, D. S. Waters, J. W. Keel and R. N. Bryan, bought the H. A. Ford Consolidated Stores and changed the name to the Mutual Stores, Incorporated. He was vice-president and manager at first, and since January, 1927, has been president and manager. The Mutual Stores Company claims to do the largest business of any retail store in Polk county. The growth of the business has increased 100 per cent under the new ownership, due to Mr. Caldwell's tireless efforts and interest.

Mr. Caldwell is a member of the Business Men's Club of Mulberry, and is a member of the Masonic Lodge.

He was married Dec. 21, 1917, at Columbus, Georgia, to Mary Louise Fuller. They have two sons, Leonard M. and Edward. Mrs. Caldwell has been one of the capable teachers in the Mulberry school for the past four years.

ELVY E. CALLAWAY

Among the leading lawyers of Polk County who has identified himself with various forward movements of his home city is ELVY E. CALLAWAY, an Alabamian by birth, the son of Rev. Benjamin W. and Joan C. (Holly) Callaway. Mr. Callaway was born February 23rd, 1889, at Weogufka, Alabama, the son of a Baptist minister.

He acquired his literary education in the public and high school at Weogufka, Alabama, and State Normal College and taught school for two years. He then entered the law offices of Mullins & Smith of Clanton, Alabama, and read law for three years. He entered the practice at Columbus, Mississippi, in June, 1915, where he lived for a period of eight years from 1915 to 1922. In the latter year he came to Lakeland and opened offices, having as a partner T. H. Burruss.

Mr. Callaway has restricted his practice to civil cases, banking and real estate transactions, and is recognized as an able authority in the lines in which he specializes.

Mr. Callaway is a member of the M. E. Church, Lions Club, Chamber of Com-



W B Carter

merce, is a Mason, Shriner, K. of P., Woodman of the World and an Elk. He is also Past Patron of the Eastern Star. He is a member of the local, county and State Bar Associations.

Mr. Callaway was married August 6, 1911, to Annie Levie of Weogufka, Alabama. They have one son, Ullman.

ALBERT B. CANFIELD

A. B. Canfield was born at Litchfield, Ohio, April 24, 1849, the son of Abial and Harriett (Northrup) Canfield. He attended the public schools of his home town and in early manhood became a farmer. Until 1913, when he removed to Winter Haven, Mr. Canfield lived in Litchfield, and in addition to his farming operations, was a stock dealer, wool buyer and grain operator.

In 1912 Mr. Canfield bought five acres of land for $625.00 in Lake Wales and subdivided it, selling it later for $85,000. This is now in the heart of the Lake Wales business district, and on part of it now stands the handsome Walesbilt hotel. He built the second and third houses in Lake Wales.

Mr. Canfield was married at Chatham, Ohio, to Lena M. Robinson, daughter of Thomas Robinson, of London, England. Their children are Grace Leona, wife of H. L. Halladay, of Litchfield; Pearl, wife of Earl Rice, of Elyria, Ohio; Tresso L., wife of Arthur Heintz, and Florence E., wife of E. W. Heintz, who live at Akron, Ohio.

Mr. Canfield is a member of the Congregational church at Litchfield, Ohio.

H. B. CARTER

H. B. CARTER, one of Lakeland's foremost citizens, whose death on November 29, 1924, as the result of an automobile accident, brought sorrow to the entire community, was born in Lumberton, North Carolina, November 29, 1872, his untimely death occurring on his 52nd birthday.

Mr. Carter, who was one of the county's wealthiest men, was orphaned when an infant, his father dying when he was six months of age, his mother when he was two years old. He was reared by a distant relative, a Mr. Edmondson, until he was sixteen years of age, when he ran away, joining his elder brother, W. J. Carter, and with whom he engaged in the turpentine business at Odum, Georgia. He worked and at the same time went to school, and at the end of four years had accumulated sufficient money to buy a one-half interest in his brother's store at Odum, which he managed.

In 1895 Mr. Carter came to Florida, locating near Pensacola, where he managed his brother's turpentine interests, selling same at a good profit. He came to Polk county in 1898, operating Carter's Mill, one of the largest plants of the kind in the county, located six miles east of Lakeland, the station at that time being named for Mr. Carter. He also operated a large lumber mill at St. Petersburg. In addition to his large mill interests, Mr. Carter also engaged in the turpentine business, and in citrus growing. Shortly before his death he built the Palace Theatre at Lakeland. He was a director in the First National Bank of Lakeland and in the National Bank of Waycross, Georgia. He also had many other business interests, both in Florida and in Georgia.

About 1901 Mr. Carter moved his family to Lakeland, and became a large property holder of this city, buying the Hotel Kibler, now the Thelma Hotel (named for Mr. Carter's eldest daughter), and also thousands of acres of land in the northern part of the county and two farms in Georgia and one in Florida.

Mr. Carter was a devout member of the Methodist church, and for many years a steward of the church. He was one of the mainstays of Southern College and of the Methodist orphanage, being a large contributor to both institutions. He was a public-spirited citizen, and aided many worthy undertakings of the community, and had many sincere friends in both Georgia and Florida.

Mr. Carter was a devoted husband and father, and before his death had built for his family one of the handsomest homes in Lakeland, overlooking Lake Morton.

He is survived by his wife, Lula S. Moody, whom he married in Georgia in 1893, and three children: Leonard L., Thelma E. (Mrs. George Carr), Ethel (Mrs. G. E. Tate, of Birmingham). Three children preceded him to the grave: David B., James L., and Lula May.

ALVA R. CARVER

ALVA R. CARVER is a native of Florida, as was his father; he was born in Suwannee county March 26, 1890, the son of Rayford H. and Jane (Parnell) Carver. His mother was descended from an old and aristocratic South Carolina family.

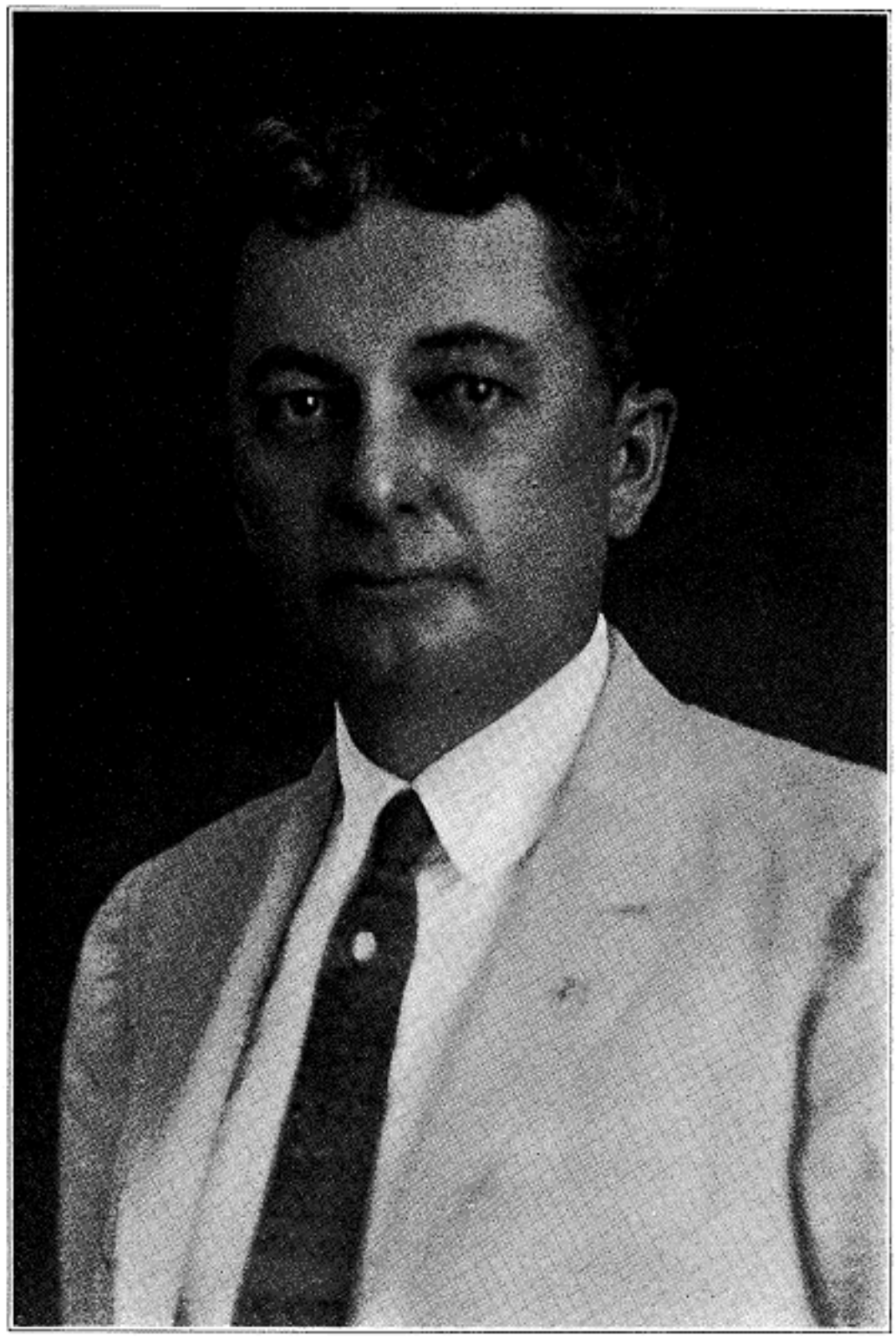
Mr. Carver attended the schools of Suwannee county, and subsequently matriculated at Stetson university, from which institution he was graduated in 1916 with an LL. B. degree. During the Christmas holidays of 1915 he moved to Lakeland, where, since his graduation, he has been an outstanding figure in law and civic circles.

It was in 1919 that he became a member of the firm of Peterson, Carver and Petteway, which is now known as Peterson & Carver. There are two other lawyers connected with this institution, and it has the distinction of being the largest legal firm in the city. In addition to his private practice, Mr. Carver has served Lakeland five years as Municipal Judge, and is at the present time Assistant Solicitor of Polk county. He is a director of the State Bank of Lakeland, and is its legal advisor.

Mr. Carver is ex-president of the Polk County Bar Association, holding this position for two years, and is a member of the American and State associations. He was the first President of the Kiwanis Club of his city, and belongs to the Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Baptist church, and fraternally is affiliated with the Masons, Shriners, Elks and Knights of Pythias. He is past master of the local Masonic lodge No. 91.

The attractive home of the Carvers, which is located on Hollingsworth road, has been much admired. Among his other properties is a beautiful orange grove.

Mr. Carver and Kate Winn were married in Lakeland in July, 1926, and have one child, Peggy Jane. Mrs. Carver's grandfather, Mr. Stephenson, was one of the first settlers of this section, and homesteaded a large plot of land, including much of the territory where Lakeland now stands.



C. M. Overton

WILLIAM H. CHANDLER, JR.

WILLIAM H. CHANDLER, JR., was born in Milton, Delaware, January 16, 1890, the son of William H. and Sara (Russell) Chandler. His ancestors were among the early settlers of Delaware, and were veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil wars.

After finishing the public schools of Scranton, Pennsylvania, Mr. Chandler attended Cornell University. His taste and inclinations leaning toward the growing of fruits, he pursued that pleasant and profitable occupation in Delaware and Pennsylvania until 1917, when he transferred his activities to Florida, locating at Lakeland in 1917.

Since coming to Polk County Mr. Chandler has engaged in the growing and shipping of oranges, grapefruit, tomatoes and watermelons on a large scale, and has offices covering practically the entire State. His firm ships on an average of 1,000 cars per year of fruit and vegetables. Mr. Chandler and Ralph Davis are associated in the fruit packing business under the firm name of Chandler-Davis Co., having their headquarters in Lakeland.

Mr. Chandler was married in September, 1921, to Jessie Bennett of Scranton, Pennsylvania. They have one daughter, Margaret.

JOHN D. CLARK

A Floridian by birth and a resident of Bartow since he was two years old, J. D. Clark has had ample opportunity to study conditions in the State and county, and is a successful member of business and political groups. At this time he is serving his home city quite capably as mayor, and much of a progressive nature is being accomplished.

J. D. Clark was born at Live Oak in 1884, the son of W. W. and Luttie B. Clark. The former, a native of the State of Kentucky, was an early phosphate operator and citrus grower in Polk and Pinellas counties.

Mr. Clark was elected city commissioner of Bartow in 1927 for a term of four years and has served as mayor-commissioner for the past two years. Under his administration the new hospital was built, and the city was given gas service, gas being piped to Bartow from Winter Haven.

He is heavily interested in citrus growing in Polk, Pinellas and Highlands counties, and in truck farming in Polk County.

Mr. Clark is owner and manager of the Crystal Ice Works of Bartow.

Mr. Clark is president of the Polk County Building and Loan Association and president of the Bartow Association of the Florida Citrus Exchange. He was a member of the old city council for seven years. He belongs to the Methodist church and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

He was married to Laura Belle Menge at Fort Myers, April 30, 1907. They have three sons: John D., Jr., W. W., and Richard.

CLANTON M. CLAYTON

CLANTON M. CLAYTON, for many years one of Lakeland's most prominent and popular citizens, was born June 17, 1880, at Wellborne, Florida, the son of Jefferson and Josephine C. Clayton, and at the time of his death, December 31, 1923, was 43 years of age.

Clant Clayton, as he was affectionately known by hundreds, climbed the ladder of success rapidly, attaining financial independence early in life, through his close attention to business matters, combined with his genial personality. He came to Lakeland about 1901 and was with the Railroad Express for a time, later forming a connection with the State Bank of that city. His banking career thus started, he went forward rapidly, the First National Bank securing his services as cashier to take the place made vacant by the death of T. W. Conrad, and eventually he became president of that institution. He sold his interests in the First National Bank in 1920, and went to Miami where he was connected with the Miami National Bank, and at the time of his death was vice-president of the Commercial Bank & Trust & Title Company. His death, due to a stroke of apoplexy, came when he was apparently in the best of health, and was the occasion of widespread sorrow wherever he was known.

He served as president of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, and president of the Rotary Club, and was affiliated with practically all fraternal organizations. He had large property interests, owning several orange groves, and his handsome home, now the property of W. P. McDonald, was one of the show places of this section.

Mr. Clayton was married October 16, 1912, to Cora Sullivan, at Lewiston, Illinois, and a daughter, Mary, was born to this union. Mrs. Clayton and daughter still retain their residence in Lakeland, owning a lovely home in Cleveland Heights, which Mrs. Clayton recently built.

GEORGE H. CLEMENTS

There is perhaps no group of men, who, without thought of reward, give more unstintingly of their services to the betterment of community interests than those connected with Chamber of Commerce work. An unusually good example is George H. Clements, secretary of the Bartow organization.

He was born in 1860 at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, the son of Thomas and Katherine (McAuliffe) Clements, both of whom were natives of Ireland.

Mr. Clements is an able newspaper man, and formerly was connected with leading publications of New York and Chicago. During the World War he served as one of the Food Commissioners of Texas, and as a member of the publicity department. Later, his newspaper assigned him to Siberia as correspondent, and he remained overseas until the close of the war.

Mr. Clements came to Bartow, July 22, 1922, to accept the post of Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and his excellent work in this connection has gained him widespread recognition.

He is a member of the Episcopal church and is President of the Downtown Men's Bible Class. He belongs to the Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Clements and Caroline Nathan were married at Lancaster, Wisconsin, in June, 1893. They have two sons, Joseph, of El Paso, Texas, and Thomas, of Hollywood, California.

JAMES RUDOLPH CLEMENTS

J. R. CLEMENTS is a native of Eastman, Georgia, born January 13, 1893, the son of Walter M. and Ida Clements. He was liberally educated, attending the University of Georgia for one year after his graduation from Eastman High School. He later entered Emory University, from which institution he graduated with the Bachelor of Science degree.

He removed to Lakeland, April 15, 1923, and has law offices in the Spencer-Futch Building. He does a general law practice, giving special attention to title work and corporation matters.

Mr. Clements is a firm believer in the future of his adopted city, and owns considerable property there.

Mr. Clements is a member of the Masonic order, Delta Tau Delta college fraternity and Cleveland Heights Golf and Country Club and attends the Methodist church.

ARTHUR LLOYD CLEVELAND

A man who has worked unceasingly, although effectively and unostentatiously, for the betterment and upbuilding of his community, and of Polk County, is Arthur Lloyd Cleveland, who for sixteen years has edited the Fort Meade *Leader*.

Mr. Cleveland was born at Charlotte, Arkansas, the son of James Rice and Emma (Harrington) Cleveland, being of Irish ancestry on his father's side and Scotch on his mother's. His father was a native of Georgia and served in the Third Georgia Regiment in the Civil war.

He was educated in the schools of Arkansas, and graduated from Meridian College, Meridian, Miss., in May, 1912, with a B. C. S. degree. Prior to this four years' literary course, he had attended business college.

Before graduating he began to cast about for a location in which to engage in the printing business, preferably in Florida, having always had a desire to live where oranges grow. Some friends acquainted with the section, suggested a possible connection at Fort Meade, and Mr. Cleveland secured leave of absence from college, visited Fort Meade and bought of R. O. Meek a half-interest in the *Leader*. After closing the deal he returned to college and graduated, and arrived in Fort Meade to take up his newspaper work May 31, 1912. The partnership with Mr. Meek continued until his death nine years later, when his son, A. B. Meek, took his father's place, and the business connection has continued ever since.

Mr. Cleveland was put on the reserve list for the World War, but was active in the Home Guards during the entire period. His four years' military training in school attained for him the rank of Lieutenant.

He is a member of the Methodist church, was Sunday school secretary three years, and has been a teacher of a Sunday school class of boys and young men for the past twelve years. He is a member of the Masonic Order, Knights of Pythias, the Chamber of Commerce and the Exchange Club, and has been a Scout Master for ten years. He is at this time treasurer of the South Florida Press Association, and vice-president of the Polk County Press Association, and is a member of the Florida Press Association. He was married May 26, 1914, at Meridian College, Meridian, Miss., to Clyde Howell, of Louisiana. Four children have been born to this union: Vela, Opal Jean, Loy and Pat.

Mr. Cleveland's career has been built upon character, and he is strictly a self-made man. He lived on the farm until his 15th birthday, when he took his first train ride to the village in Arkansas in which he was to take a job as "devil" in a country printing office. From that time he made his own way, working a while and saving a little money, then going to school, and in this way obtained an education. He stands high in the regard of his fellow-members of the newspaper profession, and is an example of right living and good citizenship.

ELMER E. CLINE

ELMER E. CLINE, who has been prominently identified with the affairs of Auburndale for the past 31 years, was born December 16, 1861, at Alliance, Ohio, the son of L. D. and M. J. Cline. His father owned an iron works at Alliance, and here Mr. Cline received his education, attending the public schools of that city, later graduating from Mount Union College.

After his education was completed, Mr. Cline learned the mechanic's trade, and had charge of several iron works, including his father's, which he finally sold. For four years he was assistant superintendent of the National Cash Register Co., of Dayton, Ohio, and was next with the Richmond Locomotive Works, of Richmond, Va.

Mr. Cline came to Florida in 1897, locating at Auburndale and at the end of the Spanish-American War became general manager of the Ocala Foundry and Machine Works for four years.

Returning to Auburndale in 1902, Mr. Cline soon became actively identified with all community interests. He engaged in the real estate business and owns a fine grove and an attractive home, which he has named "Buckeye Villa." He was vice-president of the Polk County Goods Roads Association, and was instrumental in securing for Auburndale its present fine system of roads. He has been justice of the peace for District No. 6 for the past four years, was president of the Board of Trade and Commercial Club of Auburndale for over 18 years.

Mr. Cline has a splendid military record, having served in both the war and navy departments during the Spanish-American War, serving in the shrapnel department in Frankford Arsenal at Philadelphia and engineering departments at Key West.

He is a member of the Junior Order of American Mechanics, Knights of Pythias, D. O. K. K., Elks, Odd Fellows.

He was married to Miss A. E. Adams at Meadville, Pa., in 1881, and they have one son, Harry, of Auburndale.

S. L. A. CLONTS

Among the leading pioneers who occupied a large place in the record of the progress of Lakeland, was S. L. A. Clonts, who for 39 years was a highly honored citizen. Coming to Lakeland in 1886, when that section was little more than a wilderness, Mr. Clonts established himself in business, joining the firm of D. H. Sloan & Co., who had one of the first stores in the community. Mr. Clonts later opened a grocery, which he conducted for a time, later disposing of the grocery line and confining his attention entirely to dry goods, in which undertaking he



P. H. Sheridan

was eminently successful, having built up one of the largest mercantile establishments in the county. He erected a fine brick building in which to house his business, and until about a year before his death he was in active charge, ill health necessitating him to sell his store, which brought to a close a long and successful business career.

Mr. Clonts was a useful citizen, a kindly gentleman, and enjoyed the esteem of all with whom he came in contact. He was a Georgian by birth, born at Dalton in 1856, the son of Michael and Rachel Clonts. His father was a Baptist minister who served various churches in Georgia and in Florida. When a young lad, Mr. Clonts came to Florida with his parents, locating at Live Oak, where Mr. Clonts conducted a store before coming to Lakeland.

His interest in civic matters was always keen, and he served Lakeland as mayor for three terms, the first time he was elected to this office being during the Spanish-American war, at which time many troops were stationed at Lakeland. There were many exciting occurrences in those days, and Mr. Clonts, in his official capacity, always rose to the occasion nobly, doing his duty ably and well. He was always singing Lakeland's praises, and did much to help in the making of the Greater Lakeland of today.

Mr. Clonts was a faithful member of the Baptist church, and was a Mason. He was married at Live Oak to Harriett M. Powell, and eight children blessed this union: Zeta (Mrs. H. L. Parker), Dr. Koopman Clonts, of Spokane, Washington; Samuel, Fannie (deceased), Rachel (Mrs. T. H. Getzen), Forrest, instructor in Wake Forest College; Arthur, attorney, of Stuart; and Esther (Mrs. Kinsey John Hampton). Before his death, which occurred in September, 1925, Mr. Clonts built for his family one of the finest homes in the city, located in Casa Bella.

R. E. COATES

R. E. Coates, Postmaster of Fort Meade, was born in Suwanee county, Florida, October 31, 1880, the son of Philip J. and Sarah Pemelia Coates. His father, who was a doctor and a Baptist minister, was a native of Alabama, while his mother was a Mississippian.

At the age of 15 Mr. Coates left Suwanee county and in 1896, the year following, located at Miami, where he lived for a number of years. He was the first delivery boy to be employed by the Western Union at Miami. Later he was a bookkeeper, and for a number of years engaged in the photographic business in Miami.

In 1914 Mr. Coates came to Polk county and entered the Postal service as rural mail-carrier out of Fort Meade, and in August, 1923, was appointed Postmaster at that place, which position he has since filled most satisfactorily. For ten years Mr. Coates was a member of the National Guard of Florida, entering as a private and being promoted until he was a First Lieutenant. He later entered the Coast Artillery, was transferred to the infantry with the rank of First Lieutenant and was promoted to a captaincy, which rank he now holds in the Officers' Reserve Corps with assignment in 127th Infantry. He served from August, 1917, until December, 1918, in the World War.

Mr. Coates is a member of the Baptist church, is a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Blue Lodge at Fort Meade.

LUTHER W. COBBEY

LUTHER W. COBBEY was born in Beatrice, Nebraska, October 18th, 1895, the son of Joseph E. and Lottie S. Cobbey. Luther W. Cobbey is one of eight children.

His father practiced law in Nebraska for 35 years, published and annotated the statutes of Nebraska during the years from 1890 to 1911, inclusive; they were called "Cobbey's Annotated Statutes." He also was called by New Mexico when it became a state to publish its first statutes. He also wrote and published several text-books, among which are "Cobbey on Replevin" and "Cobbey on Chattel Mortgages," etc.

Mr. Luther W. Cobbey received his training in law at the University of Nebraska, and at the beginning of the Mexican trouble enlisted in the regular army. He was first stationed on the Mexican border, and later went overseas, where he saw service at the front, and was promoted from a private to First Lieutenant.

Upon his return, he became connected with a large firm as salesman, and continued his study of law at Omaha, removing in 1926 to Haines City. Here he formed a partnership with Oliver C. Maxwell, and the firm enjoys a fine business.

Mr. Cobbey is commander of the Haines City Post of the American Legion, is a 40 and 8 member, and belongs to the Delta Tau Delta college fraternity.

He was married in May, 1920, to Charlotte M. Maxwell, and they have one son, Maxwell E. Cobbey.

MISS HELEN COCHRANE

There is probably no woman in Lakeland who is held in higher esteem than Miss Helen Cochrane, who, through her own efforts, has become financially independent, a success having attended her that any man might envy.

A Tennesseean by birth, born near Columbia, the daughter of Dr. W. W. and Elizabeth Cochrane, she was educated in the schools of her native State, coming to Lakeland in 1900. Miss Helen, as she is affectionately known by her many Lakeland friends, conducted a very popular boarding house for many years where the Marble Arcade now stands. Here many young men of the city made their home—and it was a home in every sense of the word for all who entered. Miss Helen's table was far-famed for its excellent cuisine, and so bountifully did she serve her guests it was always a matter of conjecture as to how she could set such a table and make any profit.

Several years ago Miss Cochrane retired from active business, and removed to her property at the corner of Tennessee avenue and Lemon street, in the center of the business section, where she built an apartment house and where she now resides. Later the apartment house was moved to an adjoining lot, and the Telfair Stockton building was erected on the corner of Tennessee avenue and Lemon street, this valuable building being also owned by Miss Cochrane.

Miss Cochrane is very much interested in all matters of civic importance, and is a prominent club woman, having been for a long time a member of the Woman's

Club, later serving the Sorosis Club as vice-president for several terms. Throughout the period of the World War she was house chairman of Red Cross work in Lakeland. She is a member of the Presbyterian church.

HENRY EDGAR COLE

H. E. Cole, one of the owners of the Cole Jewelry Store, Lakeland, and one of the progressive business men of the city, is a native of Iowa, born at Bloomfield, July 12, 1869. He is a son of Enos Terry and Julia Ann (Cheever) Cole, whose people were pioneer settlers in Ohio and Virginia. He received his education in the schools of Hamburg, Iowa, and Illinois.

Mr. Cole has made a life-study of the jewelry business, and is recognized as an expert optometrist as well. At the age of 12 years he entered the jewelry store of his brother, C. A. Cole, and eight years later established a store of his own at Mount Carroll, Illinois. He operated this business for 18 years, when he disposed of his interests and went West for a short time. He then came to Florida, locating at Kissimmee, but removed to Lakeland six years later.

The Cole & Hull jewelry store was established in 1912; about twelve years ago Mr. Cole purchased Mr. Hull's interest, and since that time the firm has been known as the Cole Jewelry Company, and the Cole Optical Company. Mr. Cole is fortunate in having a son who is taking on a large part of the burden of management and furthering those ideals which have made the company known as one of the most reliable firms in Lakeland. Russell H. Cole, his only child, is active in business and civic circles, and has a thorough knowledge of the jewelry and optometry business.

Mr. Cole is a Mason, Shriner and Modern Woodman; he is a member of the Methodist church and belongs to the Old Colony Club.

He was married in 1894 to Mrs. Lola G. Hoover, (deceased); he married Ruth Rountree in 1919.

HENRY C. CONNER

Henry C. Conner was born at Cherrytree, Pennsylvania, on August 31, 1865, the son of Jacob S. and Catherine Conner. The former was a farmer and a lumberman.

After completing his education, Mr. Conner naturally turned to the lumber business, in which he was engaged at various points in Pennsylvania until 1904, when he came to Florida, locating in Polk county near Bartow. At that time he bought 55 acres of orange grove, which has been developed into what is now known as Connersville, Mr. Conner having largely increased his holdings, having at the present time 450 acres in citrus at Connersville. He built his own packing house and has his own waterworks. When he located there, no highway nor railroad touched his property, and there was no electricity available, but every modern improvement now makes of Connersville one of the attractive spots of the county.

Aside from his large property interests, Mr. Conner built a handsome home, and four other houses at Connersville, and is thoroughly interested in everything looking toward civic improvement.

Fraternally, Mr. Conner is an Odd Fellow. He was married in Pennsylvania to Lucy M. Duncan. They have seven children: W. Harry, F. Loy, Lowry A. (deceased), Ben F., N. R., Chole (Mrs. K. E. Ewing, of Bartow), and Ruth.

JAMES W. CONNER

JAMES W. CONNER was born in Walton County, Georgia, June 25, 1858, the son of Mitchell and Emily Conner. His father was a Civil war veteran, having served in the Georgia Regiment.

Mr. Conner was educated in the schools of his home State, and spent his early manhood on the farm. For a number of years he was engaged in the life insurance business and had an extensive territory, his travels taking him over the States of Georgia and Florida.

In 1903 Mr. Conner decided to become a Floridian, and with his family removed to Lakeland, having been engaged in the real estate business in that city for the past 25 years. He has specialized in the handling of acreage, and has sold many fine groves in the county.

Mr. Conner has great faith in Polk County, and during his long residence has seen wonderful development in all sections, which he believes will continue to even greater proportions.

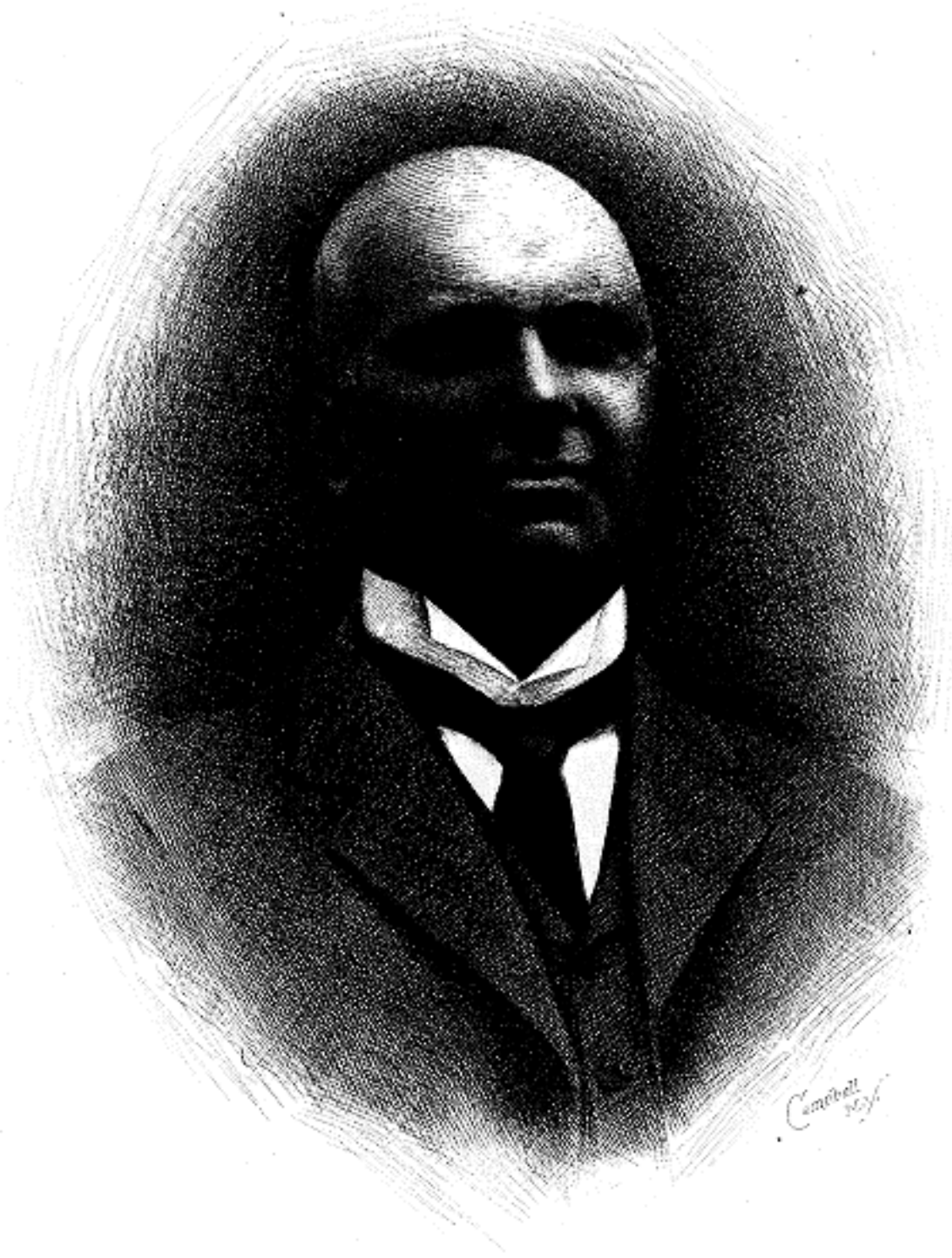
He was married at Midland, Muscogee County, Georgia, December 20th, 1887, to Nina Louise Huff. They have two children, Mrs. Elizabeth Conner Deen, widow of C. W. Deen, and D. Watson Conner, secretary to the President of the Coronet Phosphate Company.

HAROLD EDWARD CORNELL

HAROLD EDWARD CORNELL, prominent Winter Haven citizen, was born at Dubuque, Iowa, June 21, 1888, the son of George B. and Fannie (Banghart) Cornell. His father was originally from New York State, his mother from Iowa.

Educated in the schools of Wisconsin, receiving his higher education at the State University, where he specialized in civil engineering, Mr. Cornell first went to Chicago, where he followed his vocation as a civil and construction engineer for four years. In 1912 he came to Florida, locating at Pensacola, later going to Glen Saint Mary, where he made a connection with the Glen Saint Mary Nurseries Company. His ability soon gained for him recognition and advancement, and in October, 1913, he was put in charge of the company's plant at Winter Haven. He is now Vice-President and General Manager of all the company's South Florida interests, a recognized authority on citrus culture and a director of the Florida Citrus Exchange; a director of the Polk County Sub-Exchange and of the Winter Haven Growers' Association. The Glen Saint Mary Company owns 1,000 acres in Polk county, and is the largest citrus nursery in the world. During the past 16 years the company has done over $5,000,000 worth of business, its success being largely due to Mr. Cornell's ability and efforts.

Mr. Cornell has long been interested in aviation, and several years ago, in company with George W. Haldeman, world famous aviator, made the first long civilian trip in this country, flying from Dayton, Ohio, to Seattle, thence across the continent to New York City and down to Florida. Mr. Cornell is an accom-



L. W. Bowdery

plished aviator and keeps a plane for use in his business as well as for recreation purposes.

Mr. Cornell is a public-spirited citizen, always interested in any forward movement. He was Chairman of Town Council of Winter Haven for one term, and has done much toward the development of good roads in Polk county, which is famed far and wide for its splendid system of highways.

LOUIS W. COWDERY

Louis W. Cowdery, who is remembered as a loyal and constructive citizen of the pioneer epoch, came to Lakeland in 1884, and from that year until the time of his death thirty-two years later, was closely allied with any move for the civic or moral advancement of his community.

He was born in Columbus, Georgia, April 19, 1856, the son of Lester L. and Evelyn Cowdery, and was a representative of an old and distinguished family of that section.

Upon his arrival in what was later to be known as Lakeland, he formed a partnership with F. L. Brooks, and engaged in a general merchandise business.

He was a member of the city council for years, and planned many far-sighted measures, which have since been accomplished. He urged that Main street be extended to Lake Mirror, and suggested that the town buy the property where the civic buildings now stand, which at that time could have been bought for $500.

Judge Cowdery accumulated much valuable property in Lakeland, several concerns being housed in the Cowdery block on Main street, which comprises a number of up-to-date brick stores with offices above. He also owned valuable grove interests in Polk county.

He was a Mason and a Knight of Pythias, and was junior and later senior warden of All Saints Episcopal church.

He was married in Lakeland, January 17, 1892, to Florence Barlow, of Mississippi. Their children are Catherine (Mrs. Ernest Adamson), of New York City; Evelyn (Mrs. Ralph Murphy), of Miami, and Louise, of Lakeland.

JOHN F. COX

Mayor of Lakeland for eleven years, and one of the first developers of real estate in the city, John F. Cox played an important part in the history of his community, and wielded a mighty influence among his fellowmen.

He was born in Silome, Mississippi, July 29, 1874, the son of Gen. J. A. and Mary Adeline (Anderson) Cox. The former, who lived in this section many years, was prominent in the activities of the Confederate Veterans, was for many years a teacher, and represented the county in the State Legislature.

Mr. Cox attended the schools of Mississippi and the Atlanta Business College, establishing his home in Lakeland in 1890. For several years he was connected with the State Bank, now the Lakeland Bank & Trust Company. As the developer of Dixieland and Bon-Air subdivisions, he gained the distinction of being one of the pioneers in real estate circles.

In recognition of the work he did for Lakeland, the new grammar school on Lake Hills Boulevard has been named "The John F. Cox Grammar School."

Mr. Cox was president of the Lakeland Real Estate Board, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a Knight of Pythias.

He wedded Edna Henderson in Lakeland, May 1, 1901, and their children are Elsie, Dora, (wife of I. B. Phillips), Lamar, Ruth, John F., Jr., Edna Gene, and James Lee.

Mr. Cox died in Lakeland February 7, 1924, and thus was removed one of the most indefatigable civic workers Lakeland has ever had, and one her early citizens will not soon forget.

FRANK W. CRISP

Few men in Polk County can point to a record of such noteworthy achievement made possible by experienced ability, the power to grasp every detail of a large undertaking, and the energy and interest to carry it to successful completion as can Frank W. Crisp, vice-president of the Holly Hill Grove & Fruit Co., of Davenport, and general manager of that concern for the past nine years.

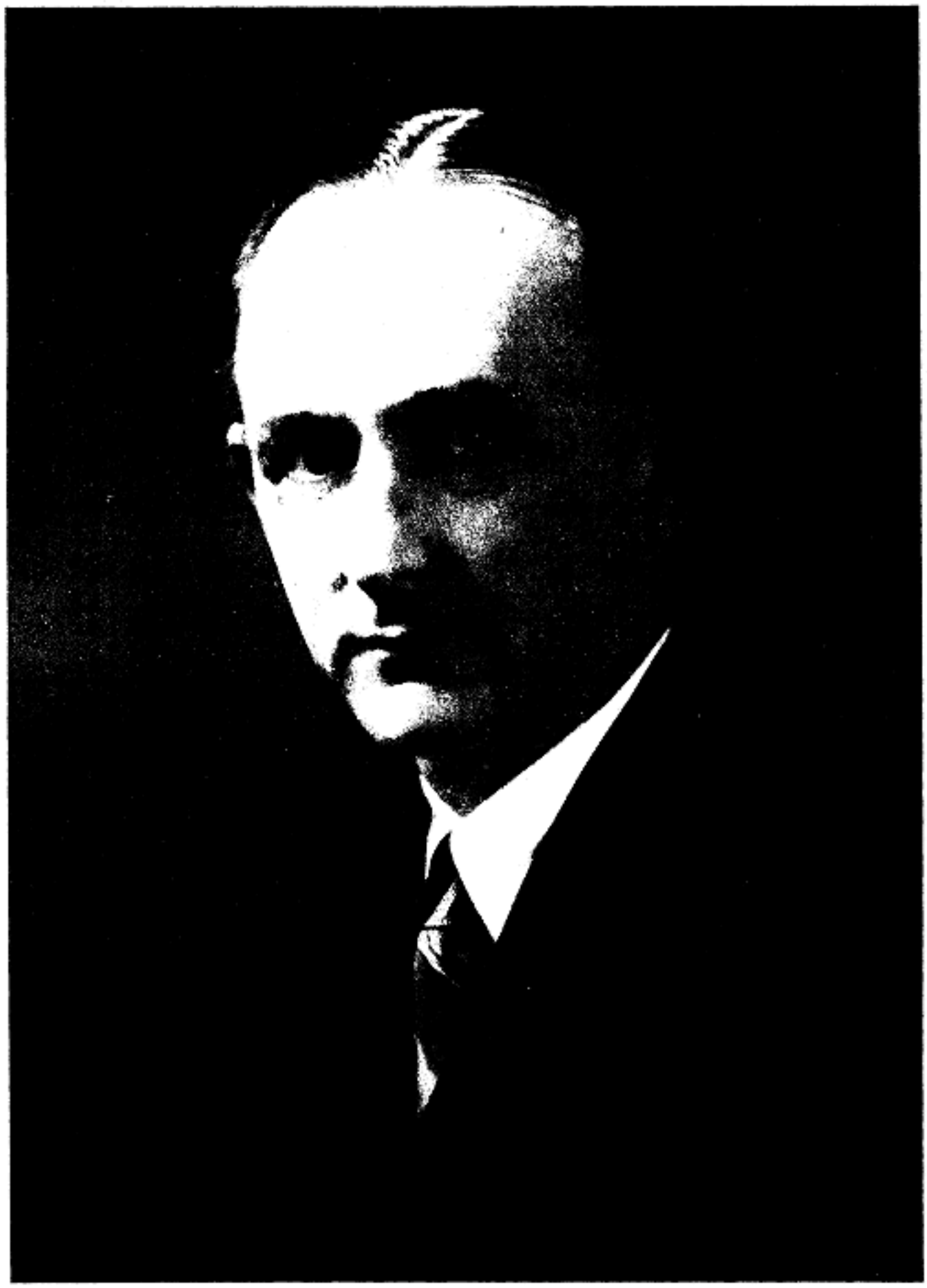
Actively engaged in development work on a large scale, Mr. Crisp has wrought a great transformation in the Davenport section, his company, under his direction, having planted 4,300 acres in citrus fruit, the groves of the Holly Hill Grove & Fruit Co. being among the finest in the county. About 250,000 boxes of fruit were shipped the past season from these groves.

The success of the development has been due in large part to the fact that the company has its own large nursery of over 100 acres, and only trees exactly suited to the soil of Davenport are produced. In addition to their large grove undertaking, the company has handled nearly 10,000 acres of land in the Davenport section.

Mr. Crisp gives his associates great credit for their co-operation, which has assisted materially in the success which he has attained.

While his energies have naturally been exerted in the interests of the concern he heads, Mr. Crisp has been a great force in the civic development of his community, and due largely to his efforts as chairman of the City Council, Davenport is acknowledged to have the most comprehensive park and beautification plan of any town in the State of Florida, 275 acres having been set aside for park purposes. It was the first town in the State to adopt a comprehensive city plan which had been worked out by landscape architects. In addition to its other high-class attractions, Davenport boasts a fine 18-hole golf course.

A South Carolinian by birth, born at Laurens, South Carolina, July 7, 1888, the son of C. C. and Alice L. Crisp, Mr. Crisp graduated in 1908 from Clemson (S. C.) Agricultural College, where he specialized in horticulture and chemistry. His business career from the first has been a series of successful advancements. His first venture was in the insurance business at Woodruff, S. C., later going with Bradstreet's at Greenville, being their traveling representative for a period of two years. He was next sales manager for the United Mercantile Agency, his territory being the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. He came to Florida in 1913 as Field Manager for the Wilson-Toomer Fertilizer Co., and was with this concern for six years, until assuming active management of the Holly Hill Grove & Fruit Company at Davenport in 1919.



In addition to his duties as vice-president and active manager of the above company, Mr. Crisp is president of the Polk County Associated Chambers of Commerce; president of the Davenport City Council; president of the Holly Hill Fruit Products, Inc.; president Davenport Chamber of Commerce; president Davenport Realty Board; treasurer Davenport Investment and Securities Corp.; treasurer Orangeland Homes Corp.; president Florida Mortgage & Holding Co.; secretary Board of Trustees Davenport schools; trustee Business Men's Association and a member of the Haines City Rotary Club.

Mr. Crisp was married to Mary Alice Powers of Barberton, Ohio. One son was born to this union, Frank Wells, Jr., deceased.

T. A. CURRIE

Among the older residents of the county who have materially assisted in making this section known as one of the most productive citrus centers in the world is T. A. Currie, who settled at Bartow in 1886.

Mr. Currie is a North Carolinian, born at Laurinburg, May 17, 1862. He is the son of Neil A. and Christian Currie; the former fought in the Civil war and his father was a veteran of the War of 1812.

T. A. Currie was reared on a farm, the principal crop being cotton. Coming to Bartow in 1886, he planted a grove and lived there seven years, when he removed to Winter Haven, and, for a number of years, was engaged in truck farming. He returned to citrus growing, however, and is now one of the leading fruit men of the county. He is interested in about 280 acres of groves throughout the central and southern parts of the State.

Mr. Currie was a member of the Board of County Commissioners for six years, and during this time made motion to build the new Court House. He is a staunch Democrat, for twenty years having served as a member of the Executive Committee of his party.

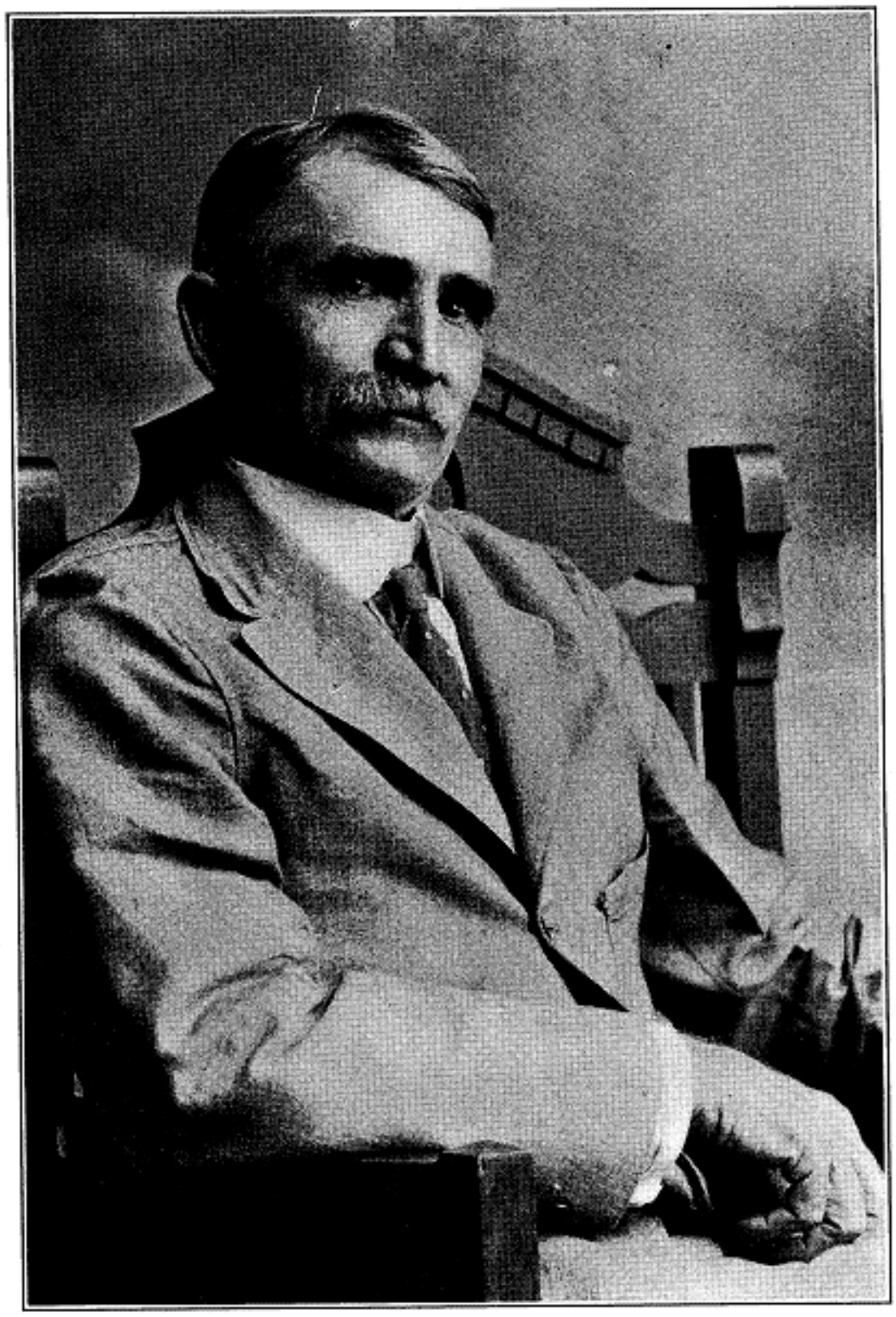
He was married in North Carolina, December 6, 1888, to Mary McNair. They have four children: Roberta, wife of J. B. Whitesides; Jane B., of Pensacola, member of the State Board of Health; Hugh M., and Marguerite. Mr. Currie is an Elder in the Presbyterian church.

L. B. CURTIS

LUTHER BARKER CURTIS was born in Moline, Ill., November 17, 1879, the son of Corinth P. and Maria A. Barker Curtis. He is of English, Irish and Scotch descent, his ancestors being among the earlier settlers of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Completing his high school education in the schools of Moline and Galesburg, Ill., Mr. Curtis came to Florida in 1896, locating at Crescent City. He enlisted in the First Florida Regiment, Company D, and saw active service in the Spanish-American War until its close in 1899.

A graduate of the Philadelphia college of Pharmacy, Mr. Curtis established a drug store in St. Augustine in 1910, later being one of the incorporators of the Miami Drug Co. at Miami. He sold his interest in these concerns and came to Lakeland in 1920 to take the management of the City Drug Store, of which he became sole owner in 1927.



T. H. Harris

Besides possessing the attributes that make for splendid citizenship, Mr. Curtis is a member of the Congregational church; is a K. of P., Mason, and an ex-member of the Phi Chi Epsilon Chapter of Philadelphia. His attention to business and genial personality have enabled him to make a marked success, the City Drug Store being recognized as one of the leading concerns of its kind in Lakeland.

Mr. Curtis was married to Rosalie Price, April 17, 1906, at Palatka, and they have one daughter, Ruth Rose Marie, who is a student at Holy Name Academy, Lake Jovita, Florida.

MRS. A. H. DARRACOTT

MRS. A. H. DARRACOTT, for many years prominent in church and club work in Lakeland, is an Alabamian, the daughter of John E. and Athalinda (Robeson) Hanna. Her parents were South Carolinians, her ancestors having lived in that State since the Revolution.

Mrs. Darracott was reared and educated in Georgia. She comes of a long line of distinguished ancestry. Her mother's family has been traced back to 1624 in Scotland and 1654 in America. Her father's family has been traced back to 1296, her first paternal ancestor coming to this country in 1753.

Mrs. Darracott came to Lakeland with her late husband, Capt. T. J. Darracott, in 1895, and during her 33 years' residence in that city she has been a leader in various lines of endeavor. She founded the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Daughters of American Revolution Chapters at Lakeland, and served as President of both organizations. She was vice-president of the Park Association, and it was largely through her efforts that the Confederate monument was placed in Munn Park.

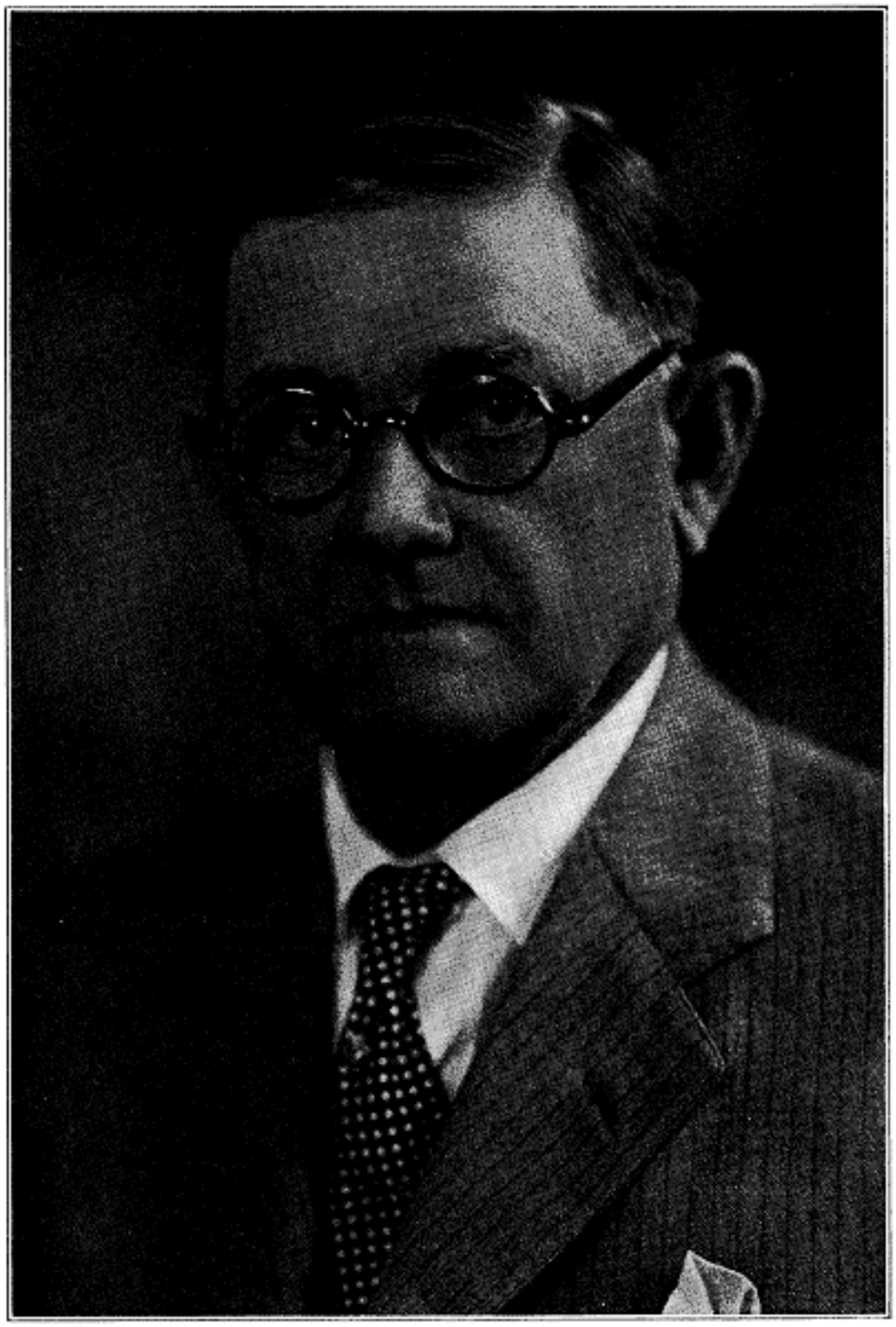
Mrs. Darracott, one of the two who organized the Ladies' Memorial Society, an organization in existence a number of years ago, which had for its purpose the beautification of the city's cemeteries. She has always been an ardent temperance worker, having been prominently identified with the W. C. T. U. for years. She has been an active church worker, being particularly prominent in the Missionary society, of which organization she served as President for many years. She has had wide experience in social service work, and is regarded by all as one who has done much, and done it well.

Captain and Mrs. Darracott were married at Blackshear, Georgia, in 1882. They had one son, John W. Darracott, now deceased, but who was, until the time of his death, January 10, 1927, a prominent Lakeland citizen. The latter married Pattie Riggins, of Lakeland, four children being born to this union, Jack W., Dora Lee, Margaret, and Annie Clair.

T. J. DARRACOTT

T. J. DARRACOTT, for many years a highly esteemed citizen of Lakeland, was born at Quitman, Georgia, November 11th, 1854, the son of John F. and Harriett Johnston Darracott.

Captain Darracott was educated in the schools of Georgia, his early life being spent on a farm. He later gave up this profession, and engaged in the railroad business as supervisor of bridges and building. He was with the railroads of



C. W. Deen

Georgia and Florida in this capacity for thirty years, the last eight years of which he was with the Atlantic Coast Line in the Lakeland district.

Captain Darracott removed his family to Lakeland in 1895, when that city was but a small village. They immediately made a place for themselves in the community, and though death has removed Captain Darracott from those who knew and loved him, the memory of this good man will ever linger. He died at Coronet, in this county, March 10th, 1910.

Captain Darracott was a member of the Methodist church, a Mason and a Knight of Pythias. He was married in 1882 to Anna Hanna Darracott. One son, John W., now deceased, was born to this union.

JAMES ROBERT DEAN

DR. J. R. DEAN, oldest chiropractor in the county in point of service, was born at Benton Harbor, Michigan. He received his general education at the University of Michigan, and fitted himself for his life work at the Palmer School and the Michigan Ross School of Chiropractic.

Following his graduation, he opened offices at Chicago, removed to Birmingham, Alabama, where he remained three years, and in 1914 established his practice at Winter Haven. He treats any disease, and has a full electrical equipment, enabling him to give therapy treatments.

That Dr. Dean's ability is recognized by his associates is demonstrated by the fact that he has held every office in the State and County Associations of Chiropractors, and has served as vice-president of the State Board of Chiropractic examiners.

Dr. Dean has owned several orange groves and has other property. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Masonic order, Shrine and Knights of Pythias.

Dr. Dean was married in Michigan to Edith Young, and they have one daughter, Mabel, wife of John Miller.

COLUMBUS W. DEEN

COLUMBUS W. DEEN, during his long residence in Lakeland, was an outstanding figure in the business and financial circles of the city, and the community felt a distinct loss had been sustained in his death which occurred November 28, 1927.

A native of Appling County, Georgia, Mr. Deen was born February 7, 1861, and therefore was 66 years of age at the time of his death. He was educated in the schools of Georgia, and early in life entered the naval stores business in Georgia and West Florida, in which business he laid the foundation of the financial success which attended his various business activities thereafter.

Coming to Lakeland in 1906, he became interested in phosphate, banking and the real estate business, in each of which he was eminently successful. He and his associates built the Sand Gully phosphate mine; he was half owner of the Deen-Bryant building, corner of Main street and Kentucky avenue, and also owned other valuable business property in Lakeland. He was for many years director of the First National Bank, of which institution he was also president for a time.

He was an ex-member of the City Council, a Mason, a Shriner and an Elk.

He was married in Georgia to Emma Mann, and four children were born to this union: Grady, Grace (Mrs. W. H. Pritchett), Ellis (deceased), and Ula (Mrs. W. H. Shepherd (deceased).

G. O. DENHAM

G. O. DENHAM, pioneer resident of Polk county, was born at Altamonte Springs, this State, November 10, 1875. He is a son of W. T. and Louisa Denham, natives of Georgia, who removed to Homeland in 1883, and are still residing there.

Mr. Denham was educated in the schools of the county, and received his business training at Macon, Georgia. Upon his return to Bartow he accepted a position with Mr. E. C. Stuart as secretary, and severed this connection after 23 years to engage in the real estate business. He has been an independent agent since 1924.

Civic matters have claimed a large share of Mr. Denham's time, and he has served his city faithfully and well. He was a member of the City Council three years; is chairman of the local board of School Trustees, and was city clerk and treasurer one term and city tax assessor a number of years.

Mr. Denham is vice-president of the Polk County Building and Loan Association; he is a member of the Kiwanis Club, Woodmen of the World, Masonic order, Knights of Pythias, a member of the Baptist Church and secretary Board of Trustees of Florida Baptist Children's Home.

He married at Bartow, December 20th, 1905, Ruby Oeland, and they have four children: Raymond O., Elizabeth, Billy and Bobby.

J. O. DENSFORD

J. O. DENSFORD, a prominent resident of Polk County for the past 36 years, was born at Seymour, Indiana, the son of Wesley and Elizabeth Densford. His boyhood was spent on a farm, and when branching out into business for himself he engaged in stock-raising and the lumber business, in both of which undertakings he was quite successful.

Leaving Indiana in 1892 he came to Florida and settled at Fort Meade, where he engaged in the crate manufacturing business. He later moved to Lake Wales, following the same line of business only on a much larger scale. He was one of the pioneer orange crate manufacturers of the State. He sold this business about ten years ago and now devotes his attention to other less exacting interests, including a fine orange grove in the Avon Park section.

Mr. Densford has been a leader in community affairs of the county. He was the principle organizer of the old Commercial Bank of Fort Meade, later changed to the First National Bank, later merging with the Bank of Fort Meade, now the First State Bank, of Fort Meade, of which he is a director and stockholder. He has ably served on the City Council of that city.

Mr. Densford is a member of the Baptist church and for years has served as trustee. He was married at Seymour, Indiana, to Ellen E. Love. Mr. and Mrs. Densford have one daughter, Mrs. B. L. Keen, of Fort Meade.

DR. J. L. DERIEUX

Among the first residents of the Lakeland section, and one of the three men who gave the town its name, was Dr. James Lafayette Derieux, who settled on

what is now the northwest portion of that city in 1883, before Lakeland had come into existence. Dr. Derieux was born in Sevier county, Tennessee, in 1837. He received his education at Hiawassee College and served in the Confederate army during the War Between the States. At the close of the war, with his wife and child, he went west, crossing the plains in a covered wagon. The trip required six months, and many adventures were encountered, six fine horses being stolen from him by the Indians. He spent two years in Nevada, and six years in California, returning then to Tennessee, where he taught school some years, then took up the study of medicine, graduating in that science from Baltimore Medical College.

He came to Florida in 1883, and planted one of the first groves in the Lakeland section now known as the Getzen grove. He was the first physician in Lakeland, practicing in the community from the time of his arrival until his death in 1898.

Dr. Derieux was a charter member and the first Worshipful Master of Lakeland Lodge, No. 91, F. & A. M. He was married in Sevier county, Tennessee, in 1862, to Fannie Huffaker. Six children were born to this union: Gertrude, Lillian (Mrs. M. F. Hetherington, Lakeland), Jay (Mrs. J. D. Hobbs, Key West), and Wesley, Louis N., and Harry, the three last named being deceased.

ROBERT T. DEWELL

R. T. DEWELL, attorney-at-law and public-spirited citizen of Haines City, is a native of this State, born at St. Augustine, June 5, 1885. He is a son of Charles H. and Fanny T. Dewell, and a nephew of James D. Dewell, former Lieutenant-Governor of Connecticut.

Robert T. Dewell was graduated from the Connecticut State University as a bachelor of science and received an LL. B. degree at Yale University. Following his educational training, he practiced a short time in New York City and at Jacksonville, this State, twelve years.

In the latter part of 1924, Mr. Dewell opened offices at Haines City, and does a general practice. He has served his city as Judge and as a member of the Commission. At this time he is attorney for Haines City and Dundee. He has large investments and is a director of several firms, including the Dixie Investment Corporation and the Central Drug Company.

During the World War Mr. Dewell was a member of Legal Advisory Board No. 3 of Duval county and served on the Fosdick Commission, with headquarters at Jacksonville. He is vice-president of the County Bar Association, and is a member of the American and State organizations, the Masonic Lodge and The Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity, and is President of the Rotary club.

He was married November 11, 1914, at New Haven, Connecticut, to Mary E. Hollister. They have two children: Mary Frances and John Hollister.

J. E. H. DORSETT

JOSEPH E. H. DORSETT, owner of the well-known plumbing and heating establishment bearing his name, is a native Floridian; he was born in Key West, January 2, 1881, the son of Octavius Henry and Romala A. Dorsett. His father, an English sea captain, was a shipbuilder of Key West, and later moved to Jacksonville, where Mr. Dorsett was educated; it was also in this city that Mr. Dorsett learned the plumbing business.

Mr. Dorsett made his first visit to Polk county 17 years ago, and was so impressed with the possibilities of this section that he established his home and business here in 1921. From the very first Mr. Dorsett's firm has enjoyed a splendid business, among the larger contracts handled being the heating and plumbing for the Florida Hotel, schools of Lakeland, heating plant for the Marble Arcade, Lakeland; plumbing in the Ocoee school and a Brevard county school; and the Indian River Hotel at Rockledge. Mr. Dorsett also has a large business throughout the county, particularly in Bartow and Auburndale.

Mr. Dorsett is a member of the Kiwanis Club, Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Pythias and Knights of Khorassan and Shrine member of Egypt Temple.

HERBERT JACKSON DRANE

When Herbert Jackson Drane, a young engineer in charge of a force of railroad workmen, stood in the center of the present site of Lakeland one June day in 1883, and looked around upon unbroken forest, with no human habitation in sight, he little dreamed that the lands in the range of his vision would be covered in his life-time with paved streets and stately buildings. Yet this has come to pass, and the only white man then on the original tract constituting the site of Lakeland now looks about him and sees hurrying throngs, and countless activities and all the pulsing life of a modern city. Throughout the forty-five years that have brought about this transformation, the first white man on the scene has been prominently identified with the community's life and growth. It is entirely proper, therefore, that he has been chosen to represent its people, with those of the district, in the halls of Congress.

Mr. Drane was born at Franklin, Simpson county, Kentucky, June 20, 1863, the son of Ossian A. and Josephine F. (Dickey) Drane. He attended the country schools of the neighborhood, but at the age of 14, owing to ill health, he was forced to give up school, and his further education was mostly the result of private school. His first work was at the age of 18, when he was sent from Nashville, Tennessee, to Macon, Georgia, to purchase and handle yellow pine lumber for a large lumber concern. His health failing while in this work, he decided to go farther south, and arriving at Jacksonville, he traveled by boat up the St. Johns River to Sanford, going thence by rail to Kissimmee. Here he met a cousin, H. M. Drane, an official of the Plant Development Co. The company was building a railroad from Kissimmee to Tampa, and H. M. Drane gave young Herbert employment supervising the construction of a portion of this road. It was in pursuit of his duties in this connection that he established a camp on Wire Lake, near the center of the present city of Lakeland, establishing the first drug store in the village. Meanwhile he had planted an orange grove, and this was frozen down, and for a time he worked as local editor of a newspaper, the *Lakeland Cracker,* for a wage of $5 a week. In 1887 he established an insurance business which has been in successful operation ever since, and which is now the oldest insurance business in Polk county.

In 1889 he bought the property where the Drane building now stands for $500, payable $100 a year. In 1909 he erected one-half of the present building, and in 1911 he added the other half, making this one of the best business blocks in Lakeland. He was also one of those who built the Kentucky Building, the second



Herbert J. Draper

brick building in Lakeland, and he now owns a controlling interest in that property. Besides his other interests he is also an orange grower, his home, "Hillcrest," being located in a fine ten-acre grove.

Mr. Drane has held many positions of honor and trust. He has been clerk and treasurer of Lakeland; mayor for several terms; county commissioner; a member of both branches of the State Legislature, and president of the State Senate; was elected to Congress in 1916, taking his seat the day the country declared war, April 3, 1917, and has just been re-elected to serve his sixth term.

He was married at Franklin, Ky., December 31, 1885, to Miss Mary Wright, and these young people were the first bride and groom in Lakeland. Three children were born to this union: Ossian W. (deceased—the first boy born in Lakeland), Mabel (Mrs. W. S. Moore), and Josephine (Mrs. J. W. Passmore).

M. R. DRIVER

M. R. DRIVER, large property owner and real estate dealer of Auburndale, was born at Lumber City, Georgia, but has made his home in this State at different times for the past twenty-five years, and is well acquainted with conditions and values in Florida.

His parents, Charles H. and Mary Kate Driver, were of Welsh extraction, and lived in Georgia many years where the former was a pioneer in the turpentine industry; prior to that time he operated a brick factory.

Mr. Driver made his first visit to the State in 1903, in company with his parents and for a time was at Tarpon Springs. From there he went to Columbia, South Carolina, where for eighteen years he was engaged in the real estate, insurance and brokerage business. Associated with men of large affairs in Georgia, he promoted several industrial banks in that State.

Mr. Driver returned to Florida in 1924 and settled at Auburndale, where he has acquired valuable property. During the spring of 1928 he negotiated the sale of the Critchlow grove to Dr. C. W. Adams and associates. The sale was said to represent one of the largest deals of the year, the grove having sold for $135,000.

Mr. Driver is a Mason and Odd Fellow, and served as mayor of Auburndale during 1927. He was married to Meta Mae Garrick in South Carolina in 1911. Their children are Meta Mae and Marion.

EDWARD H. DUDLEY

EDWARD H. DUDLEY, progressive and successful business man of Mulberry, has been a resident of the county for 46 years, coming to Bartow in 1882 from South Carolina, where he lived until 1907, when he became a citizen of Mulberry.

Mr. Dudley was born in 1877 at Bennettsville, South Carolina, his parents being Guilford L. and Ellen (Steward) Dudley. Settling in Bartow in the town's early days, his father engaged in farming and orange growing, in which pursuits he spent the remainder of his days pleasantly and profitably. He died in Bartow in 1909.

Mr. Dudley received his education at Summerlin Institute, Bartow, being among the first pupils to attend that school after it was established. His first business experience was gained with the Palmetto Phosphate Company, and he was with

that firm for a number of years, resigning in 1907 to establish the Mulberry Ice Plant, of which concern he is owner and manager. Mr. Dudley also owns the Southern Ice and Power Co. at Fort Meade. His other interests include an orange grove at Lake Wales.

Mulberry owes much to Mr. Dudley, as it has been through his active interest and energy that many of its civic improvements have become a reality. That his fellow-citizens appreciate him at his true worth, it has only to be stated that for the past eighteen years he has been Mayor of Mulberry and Chairman of the City Council. He has also been Vice-President of the Business Men's Club of Mulberry since its organization. His energies have been devoted to various civic improvements, including lights, water, sewerage and streets. The fine sewerage system of Mulberry, which extends to all parts of the town, was an improvement which he was largely instrumental in securing.

Mr. Dudley is a Mason, Knight of Pythias and a member of the Presbyterian church. He was married October 26, 1902, to Pauline Pelot, of Bartow.

JESSIE C. DURRANCE

J. C. DURRANCE, prominent orange grower and shipper of the county, was born April 3, 1879, near Bradley Junction. He is the son of George and Martha Durrance, the former from Georgia and the latter a native of this State.

After acquiring his education in the county school at Chicora and the Normal school at Wauchula, Mr. Durrance took a business course at Massey's Business college in Jacksonville. He also taught school in De Soto County.

For three months he was engaged as a bookkeeper at Mulberry, but severed this connection to assume charge of the old family farm at Bradley Junction. For the past sixteen years he has lived at Fort Meade, where he is extensively engaged in the citrus industry—owning a grove at Fort Meade and one at Frostproof. He is also a leading buyer and shipper of citrus fruits in the Fort Meade section.

Mr. Durrance has served his city and county ably in his official capacity as city councilman and county commissioner, which offices he filled with credit to himself and his constituents.

Mr. Durrance is a faithful member of the Baptist church. He was married July 23, 1913, to Blanche Addison, of Fort Meade. Mr. and Mrs. Durrance have two sons: J. C. and Ralph.

CHARLES I. DWIGGINS

CHARLES I. DWIGGINS, ex-banker and now developer of orange groves and city property, has, in the eight years of his residence in Lakeland, been one of the progressive and constructive men of the community.

Mr. Dwiggins was born in Shelbyville, Tennessee, in 1886, the son of H. C. and Mary Dwiggins. He received his higher education at Washington and Lee university, and immediately after his graduation, entered the banking business in Tennessee, later following this profession in Oklahoma.

Upon his arrival in Lakeland in 1920, he organized the Central State Bank, which later became the Central Bank and Trust Company. He was active vice-president of this institution for three years, disposing of his interests to engage in the mortgage and loan business.

Mr. Dwiggins has exhibited a marked interest in civic matters, and is now a member of the city commission, being first appointed to this office and later elected for a term of three years. Prior to this appointment, he was chairman of the City Planning Board, and is enthusiastically in favor of the beautification program. He was also a member of the charter board for the commission form of government, and is an ex-director of the Chamber of Commerce.

He is a Mason, Shriner and Elk.

HARRY P. DYE

HARRY P. DYE was born in Indiana, July 17, 1874, the son of James M. and Hannah Pugh Dye.

His paternal ancestors were from Holland, being descendants of the French Huguenots. They came to America in 1642, settling in New York. His maternal ancestors were early settlers in Baltimore, coming during William Penn's time.

After completing his high school education, Mr. Dye graduated in 1893 from Central College, in Indiana, and for four years thereafter was deputy in the Recorder's office in Lebanon, Indiana.

Later he became a traveling salesman for the Troy Stove Works, and in 1907 entered the hotel business, operating hostelries in Jackson and Vicksburg, Mississippi, and in Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1924 he came to Winter Haven and acquired a one-half interest in the Haven Hotel, of which he became active manager, and under his direction the hotel, which would do credit to a city many times larger, has been most successfully conducted.

Mr. Dye is an Elk, a Knight of Pythias, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Methodist church. He was married in 1905 to Anna P. James, of Chambers County, Alabama. They have two sons: Baxter J., and Harry P., Jr.

CHARLES E. EARNEST

C. E. EARNEST, owner of the largest department store in the county, and a resident of Bartow since 1897, was born near Sanford, Florida, in 1870. He is a son of Charles E. and Lucinda M. Earnest, who were Tennesseans; the father was in the contracting business in Sanford, Orlando and Kissimmee, and his grandfather, Felix Warren, was a pioneer merchant at Fort Reid, near Sanford.

Mr. Earnest was educated in the public schools of Sanford, Orlando and Kissimmee, and in 1894 entered the business world at Kissimmee. Three years later he came to Bartow and established his own store, having one room next door to his present location. In 1906 the Charles E. Earnest Mercantile Company was incorporated with Mr. Earnest as President and active head. This firm has gradually grown to be a complete department store handling drygoods, ladies' ready-to-wear, art goods, millinery, shoes, infant wear and draperies. An up-to-date beauty parlor is run in conjunction with the store.

Mr. Earnest is Chairman of the Board of Stewards of the Methodist church, and is a member of the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, Masons, Shrine and Knights of Pythias. He is a director of the Bartow Home Building Co.

Mr. Earnest and Amanda Chaney were married at Arcadia February, 1894.

Two children were born to this union, both of whom died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Earnest have, however, reared two of the former's sister's children.

M. M. EBERT

M. M. EBERT was born June 14, 1885, in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of John A. and Marie T. Ebert.

Graduating from one of Kansas City's High Schools, Mr. Ebert later attended Yale University. He began his business career in Chicago, where he was engaged in the advertising business for eight years.

Coming to Lake Wales in 1914, he first became associated with Clarence Thulberry in general work in connection with the development of orange groves, and in 1915 he and O. B. Huffaker bought the hardware business of R. N. Jones. About three years later Mr. Ebert bought his partner's interest, and is now President of the concern, which is the largest hardware store in the southern part of the county. The business was moved into the Bullard building in 1920, where ample space is provided for the large stock of hardware, paints, tools, toys, sporting goods, etc., carried by this firm.

Another enterprise in which Mr. Ebert is interested is the Agricultural Humus Company, manufacturers of "Compo-Humus," the plant being located near Lake Wales. Mr. Ebert is secretary and treasurer of the company and associated with him in the concern is C. F. Burrows.

Mr. Ebert was the first City Clerk and Tax Collector of Lake Wales. He is a Rotarian, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, a Past Master of the Lake Wales Masonic Lodge, and is a Shriner. He has seen Lake Wales grow from a village of 200 population to its present proportions, and has been an important factor in its growth and progress.

He was married April 24th, 1918, to Lee Sample, of Haines City.

H. DOUGLAS EDWARDS

H. DOUGLAS EDWARDS, cashier and active head of the First State Bank of Fort Meade, is a native Floridian, born in Citrus County in 1882, the son of Henry D. and Mary J. Edwards. His parents were Georgians, and his father was a farmer.

For some years after his graduation, Mr. Edwards was with the Florida Bank and Trust Company, of St. Petersburg, removing from that city to Fort Meade in 1919. For four years after coming to Fort Meade Mr. Edwards was in the clothing business with his brother-in-law, Harmon Head.

In 1924 Mr. Edwards joined the First State Bank, of Fort Meade, as Cashier, and the growth of the bank since that time has been highly flattering to his financial ability, the deposits in 1924 having been $470,000, and in 1928, $940,000, exactly double what they were when he formed a connection with the institution.

Mr. Edwards, aside from his banking interests, finds time to devote to several orange groves he owns, and derives much pleasure as well as profit therefrom.

He is a Mason and a member of the Baptist church. He was married in 1905 to Josie Head, of Marion county, and they have three children: Celeste, H. B., Jr., and Scott.

JOHN S. EDWARDS

JOHN S. EDWARDS, eminent lawyer and ex-judge of the circuit court, and a resident of Lakeland for nearly a quarter of a century, was born in Randolph county, Georgia, July 4, 1872. He is a son of Captain M. C. and Tommie (Roquemore) Edwards, the former captain of cavalry with the Confederate forces during the Civil War. Judge Edwards was educated at Mercer University, receiving the degree of LL.B. and started the practice of his profession at Macon.

He came to Polk county in 1904 and settled at Lakeland, and for several years was in partnership with Park Trammell. He was a member of the Tax Commission of the State for three years, and eight years served as judge of the Tenth Circuit Court of Florida. He has been attorney for the city of Lakeland and in 1909 was elected mayor.

Judge Edwards is past president of the Exchange Club, ex-secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and is a Mason. Professionally he is identified with the National, Florida, Polk County and Lakeland Bar Associations.

In 1911 Judge Edwards and Somerville Booth were married in Chester, South Carolina. They have two children, Margaret, Tommie and John S., Jr.

EDWIN T. EMBREY

E. T. EMBREY, of the Barnett-Embrey Construction Company, Bartow, is a native of Tennessee, born at Chattanooga, July 6, 1894, the son of Hugh H. and Cecelia T. Embrey. He was reared and educated in that city, and at the age of 17 became connected with the West Construction Company, remaining with this firm sixteen years.

In 1914, Mr. Embrey came to Bartow for his company, and helped lay the first asphalt streets in the county. He returned to Bartow in 1924 to supervise more paving, and during the following three years did $2,250,000.00 worth of street and road paving in Polk county.

In 1926 he became associated with C. H. Barnett, who was also connected with the West organization, and since that time they have done business as the Barnett-Embrey Construction Company. They have been quite successful, building about 40 miles of paving last year. Part of this work was on the Vero cross-state highway, which, when completed, will be one of the leading roads in the State.

Mr. Embrey is interested in the Conrock Pipe Company at Brooksville, and also owns real estate in this county. He is active in all Masonic work at Bartow, and is a member of Egypt Temple Shrine.

He was married at Sebring, March 3, 1917, to Bertha Baylor.

BRADY DEXTER EPLING

B. D. EPLING, M.D., was born at Cant Creek, West Virginia, September 4, 1886. He is a son of James E. and Sarah Margaret (McElrath) Epling, and a grandson of Colonel Isaac T. and Elizabeth (Kessinger) Epling.

Dr. Epling received exceptionally good training for his life work. He attended Concord College, Athens, West Virginia, and received his degree at Virginia Medical College. For one year he was an interne at the Sheltering Arms Hospital at Richmond and took a post-graduate course at Mayo Brothers.

He began practicing at Petersburg, Illinois, where he remained 15 years, removing to Lake Wales February 5, 1924, where he has established a splendid practice.

Dr. Epling owns a lovely home in Highland Park, and has three orange groves. He is a faithful member of the Presbyterian church and belongs to the Kiwanis Club and the Highlands Golf and Country Club. Fraternally, he is allied with the Masonic order and the Shrine.

Dr. Epling was married in the latter part of 1911 to Louise Hurt Greene, granddaughter of William Greene, who was identified with the early career of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. and Mrs. Epling have two sons: Brady Dexter, Jr., and James Greene.

ROSWELL C. ERWIN

ROSWELL C. ERWIN, during his few years' residence in Florida, carved for himself a place in the business and social life of this section that will not soon be filled. An able financier, and an expert on grove matters, he made an enviable record for a young man, having died in Winter Haven at the age of 31 years.

He was born in Chicago, Illinois, September 23, 1892, the son of Charles R. and Rachel M. Erwin, and was educated at the Allen School for Boys. With his parents he came to Florida at the age of twelve years on a visit, and thereafter spent a part of each year in Polk County. His father invested largely in groves, and when the subject of this sketch came to Winter Haven in 1916 to make his permanent home he took charge of his father's property. At the time of his death he was manager and part owner of one of the largest individual grove holdings in this section.

When 29 years old, he assisted in establishing the American National Bank, of Winter Haven, and was unanimously chosen president of the institution. He identified himself with the community life of Winter Haven, and gave liberally of his time and money to any good cause.

He was married at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, October 16, 1916, to Laurene LaPlante. Their children are Charles Roswell, Rachel Morrison and Thomas Church.

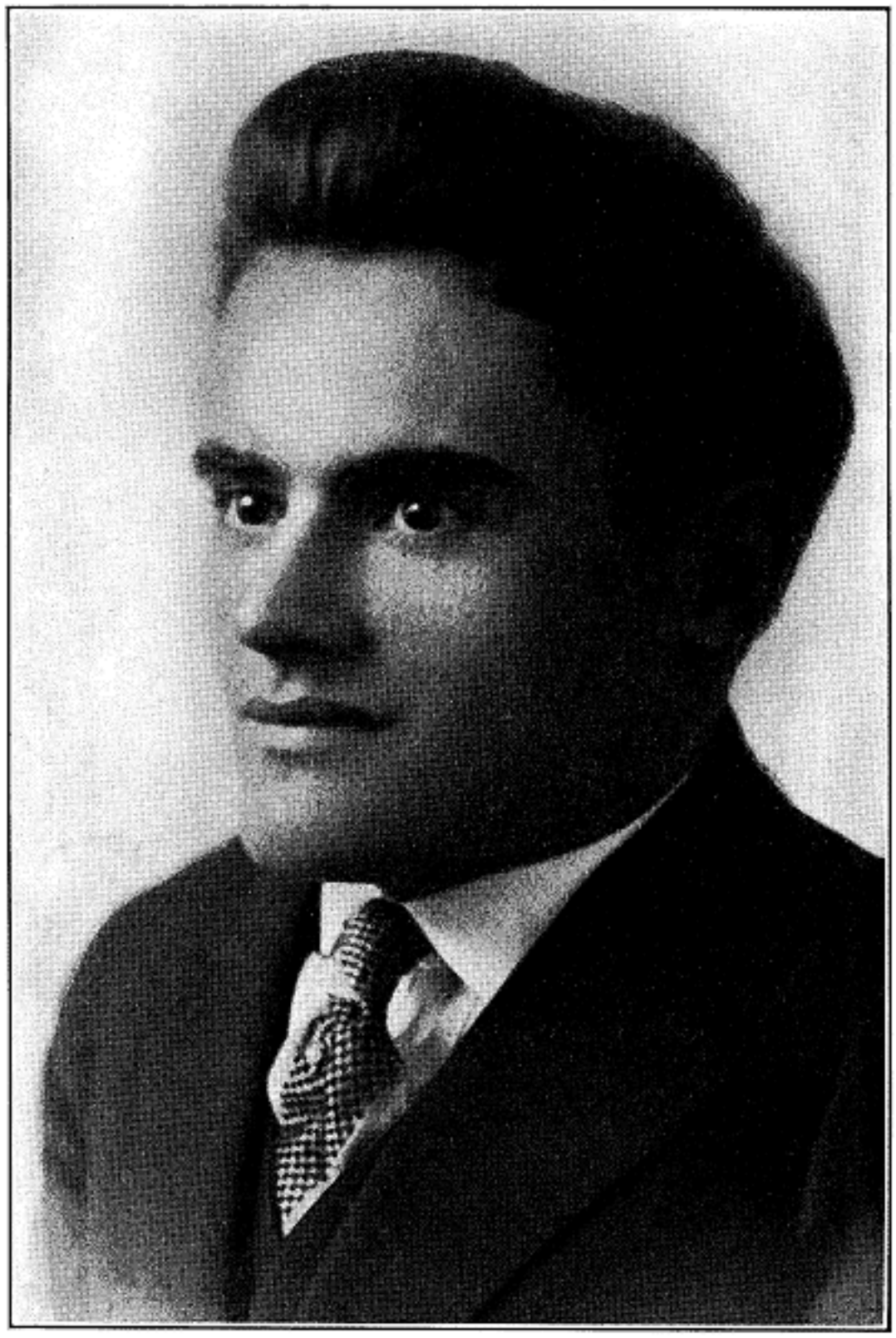
Mr. Erwin died March 1st, 1923.

HAL O. ESTES

HAL O. ESTES, developer and builder and in every respect one of Haines City's most substantial and worth-while citizens, was born in Palatka, the son of Dr. William W. and Minnie (Riley) Estes, the former a Tennesseean and the latter a native of South Carolina. Dr. Estes was a leading dentist of Palatka for a number of years until 1890 when he removed to Tampa where he practiced until the time of his death.

After acquiring his education in the schools of Tampa, Mr. Estes turned his attention to the wholesale and retail drug business. At various times he has owned fourteen different drug stores in various towns of the State, in the conduct of which he was highly suceessful.

On coming to Haines City in 1917 Mr. Estes established the Highland Wholesale Grocery Company, which he later sold. He has been instrumental in the





development of Haines City on a large scale, having erected some of the town's most substantial buildings, among the number being the Van Buren Hotel, the Fountain Square Arcade, Liggett Building and other buildings. He owns much valuable property in Haines City, and is one of the town's largest taxpayers.

He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, Rotary Club, which he helped organize and was its first president, and is an active and loyal worker in the Chamber of Commerce. He was married October 10, 1914, to Constance M. Davis of Tampa. Their children are Lawrence, Kenneth, Betty and Bobby.

G. E. EVERETT

PROF. G. E. EVERETT, for the past seven years superintendent of the Lakeland schools, was born in Glasgow, Kentucky, January 30, 1885, the son of Edmund and Victoria (Wright) Everett. The former served in the Kentucky regiment during the civil war, with valor and distinction.

He received his education in the schools of his native State, his college work being gained at the West Kentucky Teachers' College and Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn., graduating from the latter institution with A.B. and A.M. degrees.

Before coming to Lakeland in 1921 Mr. Everett taught in the rural schools of Kentucky, and was superintendent of the schools at Benton and Maysville, that State. Since coming to Lakeland six grade schools have been erected and two colored schools; also Junior and Senior High School buildings. In the seven years the enrollment increased from 1900 to nearly 6,000.

Under Mr. Everett's leadership, numerous changes were made in the curriculum of the High School at Lakeland. Home Economics was made a two-year course; the commercial department was made a two-year course; and new courses added were journalism, public speaking, music, physical education, library training, Spanish, penmanship, a Glee Club, dramatics and manual training. Other similar changes for the betterment of the junior high school and the graded schools were also introduced.

Mr. Everett is a member of the Phi Delta Kappa college fraternity; belongs to the Kiwanis Club, Baptist church, and is a Mason, member of the Blue Lodge Royal Arch. He was married in Kentucky December 27, 1913, to Pearl Collier.

PETER D. EYCLESHIMER

PETER D. EYCLESHIMER, one of the first three settlers of Winter Haven, and who claims the distinction of having named the town, was born in Pittstown, New York, in 1839, and at the time of his death in 1909, was 70 years of age.

Mr. Eycleshimer came to Florida in 1884 for his health, locating at Winter Haven, then an unbroken forest, and purchased 76 acres in and around the present town. He planted a large orange grove on the west shore of Lake Howard, the planting including oranges, grapefruit, mangoes, guavas and other fruits.

Mr. Eycleshimer was a member of the Presbyterian church. He was married December 10, 1867, at Pittstown, New York, to Anna T. Herrington, of that place. Two children were born to this union: Clarence M. and Hattie L. (Mrs. Chas. F. Greenwood). Mrs. Eycleshimer is a large property owner of Winter Haven, among her holdings being the Ridgeland Hotel. She and her daughter are members of the order of Pythian Sisters.

SAMUEL HOWARD FARABEE

Seldom has a man come into a community a stranger and so quickly and firmly entrenched himself in the confidence and esteem of its people as has "Sam" Farabee, who in a period of four years has established a very definite right to be regarded as one of Lakeland's leading citizens.

Samuel Howard Farabee was born in Forsythe County, North Carolina, the son of John A. and Elizabeth Caroline Farabee. He received his elementary education in the public schools of his native State, later completing a course at the University of North Carolina. At the conclusion of his college career, he engaged in the profession of journalism, editing papers at Hickory, Salisbury and other North Carolina cities with marked ability.

In 1924 he chanced to visit Lakeland, and was so impressed with the beauty, progressive spirit and possibilities of the city that he resolved to make his home there. Accordingly, he set about the establishment of an afternoon newspaper, and on September 1, 1924, the first issue of the *Lakeland Evening Ledger* appeared, with Mr. Farabee as editor and the Ledger Publishing Co. as publisher. Mr. Farabee later associated with him Bryan Mack as business manager, and in 1927 Jay C. Smith bought a substantial interest in the newspaper property, Mr. Farabee remaining president of the corporation.

In July, 1927, the *Ledger* and the *Lakeland Star-Telegram* were consolidated, and the paper is now known as the *Lakeland Ledger and Star-Telegram.* Mr. Farabee's editorials, always temperate, sane and constructive, have been a definite force for all that is good and progressive, and have brought the paper circulation and influence.

Mr. Farabee is a member of the Methodist church, the Rotary Club and the Order of Elks. He is also a member of the Masonic Order, and is a Shriner.

He was married in Raleigh, North Carolina, on November 24, 1908, to Miss Jennie Mabel Powell. Three daughters have been born to this union: Jean Powell, Elizabeth Carol and Sarah Willard.

T. D. FELTON

T. D. FELTON was born at Old Town, Lafayette County (now Dixie County), Florida, the son of George William and Lucy Annie Felton. He spent his boyhood days on a farm and cattle ranch.

Mr. Felton graduated from the University of Florida in 1912 with B. S. C. E. degree, and located in Polk County in 1913, since which time he has been prominently identified with the phosphate business of the county. In his fifteen years' residence in Polk County he has been connected with the Phosphate Mining Company, and for eight years was Superintendent of the Phosmico plant of this concern near Bartow. This company formerly operated about six mines, but due to increased efficiency and the use of larger equipment they get as large an output out of three mines as they formerly did out of the six. Mr. Felton is now general superintendent of the company.

Mr. Felton was married January 21, 1919, to Susan Pylant, member of a prominent Bartow family, and they have two sons, T. D., Jr., and Eugene Robert.

They make their home at Nichols, and have been actively identified with any movement looking to the betterment of conditions in their community.

EDWIN CHESTER FLANAGAN

E. C. FLANAGAN, for the past 37 years a resident of Lakeland, and who has been prominently identified with municipal and county affairs, was born in Duval County, February 21, 1870, the son of Thomas and Hariett (Dees) Flanagan. His father was a contractor and a native of New York State; his mother was a Floridian.

At the age of 16, Mr. Flanagan began a railroad career of 34 years' service, terminating eight years ago when press of other business necessitated Mr. Flanagan giving his attention to other matters. His first work with the railroad was in the car department, from which he advanced to fireman and then to engineer; the last twenty years he was with the Atlantic Coast Line, being in the passenger service between Sanford and Port Tampa and Lakeland and Fort Myers.

Mr. Flanagan came to Polk County in 1891, locating at Lakeland, and he has at various times taken a prominent part in the city's affairs, being City Councilman for six years, two of which he was mayor. While on the Council Mr. Flanagan was instrumental in having a number of progressive measures passed, resulting in the city's steady and continued growth. He also ably served on the Board of County Commissioners for a period of four years.

For twelve years Mr. Flanagan was vice-president and director of the State Bank of Lakeland. He has much valuable property in Lakeland, and owns three fine orange groves, two at Haines City and one at Polk Lake. He recently completed a lovely home in Cleveland Heights, where he and his family reside.

Mr. Flanagan is a Mason, Shriner, an Elk and a Knight of Pythias. He is also a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

On June 6, 1893, he was married to Texas Griffin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Griffin, who were among Lakeland's first families, and who were honored and esteemed citizens for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Flanagan's children are Herman, who is a Chemical Engineer, a graduate of Georgia Tech; Pat, who is a member of the firm of the Dixie Paint Co.; Ruth (Mrs. Nat Patten), and John Barnard, a student at Georgia Tech.

CHARLES ROBERT FORD

CHARLES ROBERT FORD, who for twelve years was a highly respected citizen of Lakeland, was born June 9, 1865, at Nichols, South Carolina, and died in Lakeland, June 23, 1924.

Mr. Ford was the son of William and Elizabeth Ford, and for several years after he grew to young manhood, operated a store and hotel at the place of his birth, moving to Dunnellon, Florida, in 1911, where he conducted a hotel for one year, removing to Lakeland in 1912.

Until the time of his death Mr. Ford operated the Ford House, a popular hostelry among the tourists, on North Kentucky avenue, and in 1916, in partnership with his three sons, engaged in the shoe business. They successfully conducted this business for five years, disposing of same in 1921 to T. E. Rogers. For

his own recreation and to give pleasure to his friends, Mr. Ford would, from time to time, make up fishing parties, and being a skilled angler himself, a bountiful supply of the finny tribe was always secured. Many delightful outings were enjoyed in this manner by him and those fortunate to be included in his expeditions.

Mr. Ford was married to M. Ellen Anderson, of Fair Bluff, North Carolina, April 12, 1893, and four children were born to this union: Dennis, Lee A., Roger F. and Mary Ellen. Mrs. Ford is a capable business woman and since her husband's death has continued to successfully conduct the Ford House.

ROGER FLOYD FORD

ROGER FLOYD FORD, one of Lakeland's progressive young business men, was born at Fair Bluff, North Carolina, January 13, 1900, the son of Charles R. and Ellen M. (Anderson) Ford. His ancestors were from Scotland and Ireland, and were among the pioneers of North Carolina.

After graduating from the Lakeland High School, Mr. Ford attended the University of Florida and in 1924 graduated from Stetson University with the degree of LL. B. For one year following his graduation, Mr. Ford was associated in business with the law firm of Calloway & Burruss, but the lure of the mercantile business, in which he had grown up, proved too strong for him, and he established a drug store, which he conducted for one year. He later turned his attention to the shoe business, opening a shoe department in Myrick's department store, of which he is owner and manager.

Mr. Ford is a Mason, a Shriner and an Elk, and is an ex-member of the Exchange Club.

He was married March 1, 1925, to Florrie Hawkins. The latter is one of the city's most capable young business women, having been with Myrick's for the past thirteen years as bookkeeper, coming here from Milledgeville, Georgia, in 1921 with W. S. Myrick to establish the Lakeland store.

JAMES A. FORT

J. A. FORT, one of the most progressive and successful truck growers in the county, was born in Darlington County, South Carolina, November 13, 1870, the son of James W. and Elizabeth M. Fort. His father enlisted in the South Carolina regiment at the outbreak of the Civil War and rendered gallant service. Another interesting figure in his family is his maternal grandfather, who was a noted professor of theology.

In his early childhood Mr. Fort's family moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, where his father had turpentine interests, and he was educated in the schools of that city. Following the work of his father, he came to Polk County in 1904, settling at Eagle Lake.

For many years, however, he has been a truck grower, and his farm between Bartow and Lakeland is one of the show places of the county, particularly admired by the tourists. A great part of the forty acres is planted to cabbage, but beans, potatoes, eggplant and peppers are also grown. He has a 420-foot well on this tract, which supplies a wonderful system of irrigation with large volumes of water at all times.

Mr. Fort has served his home city as member of the local school board and as city commissioner. He is a member of the Baptist church.

He was married in Georgia, April 27, 1898, to Sally B. Harper. They have one son, James A., Jr.

JOHN L. FOUTS

JOHN L. FOUTS, prominent financier of the county, was born at Warrior, Alabama, in 1875, the son of James D. and Sarah Fouts. He was educated in the schools of Alabama, completing his education at Birmingham College.

Until 1912 Mr. Fouts was engaged in railroad work, being connected with the Southern Pacific Railroad. He came to Florida in that year, locating at Orlando, the following year coming to Polk County at which time he bought the Citizens Bank at Mulberry, which was later consolidated with the Bank of Mulberry. In 1915 Mr. Fouts bought the First State Bank of Winter Haven, which he still owns, and in 1917 bought a controlling interest in the First National Bank of Lakeland, of which institution he is President. He also owns the State Bank of Bartow, the First National Bank of Auburndale and the Lake Alfred State Bank, of which concerns he is President.

When Mr. Fouts became identified with the First National Bank of Lakeland, it had deposits of $1,000,000; it now has $2,250,000, and the surplus has been increased from $50,000 to $200,000. It is one of the strongest financial institutions in South Florida.

Mr. Fouts and W. T. Overstreet own a Fruit Company at Winter Haven, several fine orange groves and have other important interests.

Mr. Fouts was married to Miss Fornia Ferguson in Leesville, La., April, 1901. They have one son, Jack Fouts, one son (Louie) being deceased.

J. L. FRANCIS

JOHN L. FRANCIS was born June 9, 1856, the son of John and Mary Francis. His father was a native of Scotland, and was a weaver.

When a young man, Mr. Francis became a resident of Peoria, Illinois, where he engaged in farming and stock trading. He was a large and successful farmer of that section, and held large stock sales.

In January, 1914, Mr. Francis came to Lakeland and bought a six-acre grove on the south shore of Lake Hollingsworth, where he has since resided. He has greatly improved the grove, and his amusement pavilion, Francis Beach, built over the waters of the lake, has always been a popular bathing place during the summer season.

During the height of the real estate boom, Mr. Francis was a salesman for the Hollywood corporation on the East Coast, and was one of their best, influencing large numbers to invest in that section.

Mr. Francis was married at Mackinaw, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Francis came to Florida on account of the latter's health, which has been completely restored. Mrs. Francis manages the bathing beach, and to her efforts is due its popularity and success.

GROVER CLEVELAND FREEMAN

Since coming to Lakeland in 1923, G. C. Freeman has been recognized as one of the foremost authorities in the state on diseases of the heart, lungs and chest. He does no general practice, and spends the majority of his time in combatting tuberculosis.

He was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, September 10, 1886, the son of John R. and Margaret (Stapleton) Freeman. His father was born in Belfast, Ireland, and after coming to this country, became a prosperous stock dealer; his grandfather was an Episcopal rector. Dr. Freeman received his rudimentary education in the schools of Griffin, Georgia, and graduated from the university of that state as a Bachelor of Arts. From the University of Pennsylvania he received the degrees of Ph.G. and M.D. Following his graduation, he spent eighteen months in St. Mary's hospital, Philadelphia.

Dr. Freeman was, between the years of 1908 and 1923, a medical officer in the United States Navy, holding the rank of lieutenant-commander when he resigned. During the war he was on the transport "America," and made about forty trips to Europe. After the Armistice was signed, he was stationed at Los Animos Hospital, Colorado Springs, Colo. This is a Naval tuberculosis hospital and is one of the largest in the world.

Dr. Freeman is a member of the Board of Governors of the Morrell Memorial Hospital, and belongs to the Lakeland Clinical Association, the American, Southern, Florida and County Medical Associations, the Royal Institute of Public Health of London, England, and the National Tuberculosis Association. He is a valued member of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis and Old Colony clubs and is a Mason, Elk and Knight of Pythias.

Dr. and Mrs. Freeman own a beautiful home on Edgewood drive, Cleveland Heights. Before their marriage, she was Mary A. Durden, of Georgia.

J. H. FULLER

J. H. FULLER, manager of the Winter Haven Water, Ice and Light Company, the Plant City Public Service Company and the Dade City Utilities Company, was born at Boston, Massachusetts, in 1884, the son of Henry A. and Jessie Fuller.

Mr. Fuller was educated at Boston and upon leaving school formed a connection with the Erie railroad. In 1912 he accepted a position with the firm of Stone & Webster in the sales department of the Pensacola (Florida) Electric Company, and came to Tampa in 1919 to become salesmanager of the Tampa Electric Company. Five years ago Stone & Webster purchased from W. F. Floyd the Water, Light and Ice plant at Winter Haven, and appointed Mr. Fuller manager. Under the new management the electric plant has been increased three-fold, the water department enlarged, an additional ice plant purchased, and the business doubled. In addition, a complete sales department of electrical equipment is maintained.

Mr. Fuller is president of the Rotary Club, a Mason, and a member of the Board of Governors of the Chamber of Commerce.

He was married at Boston to Frances Hanscom, and they have two children: William H. and Patricia.

LAWRENCE M. FUTCH

L. M. FUTCH, president of the Futch Undertaking Company, large property owner and pioneer citizen, is a native of Florida, born in Webster in 1872. He is the son of D. J. and E. J. (Brown) Futch, the former a Veteran of the Civil War.

Mr. Futch was educated in the schools of Sumpter county, and when quite a young man moved to Tampa, where he conducted an insurance business. He removed to Lakeland in 1907, a very small community then, and has been an important factor in the city's development. He was first engaged in life insurance and real estate business, and in 1910 established the Futch Undertaking Company, the oldest firm of its kind in the city.

He has valuable real estate holdings, owning one-half interest in the Spencer-Futch building, besides other valuable properties. The Futch home is one of the show places of Lakeland.

Mr. Futch was married in Fort Myers to Fanny Dyches, and they have three children, Mildred L. and Earl G., who are in business with their father, and one young daughter, Frances Elizabeth.

The fraternal memberships held by Mr. Futch include the Masons, Shriners and Knights Templar. He is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

R. T. GALLEMORE

Few men of his years have had a more active and thrilling career, culminating in useful citizenship, than has marked the life of R. T. Gallemore, who after distinguished service to his country in the United States Navy, is now giving equally valuable service to his country and community as editor of the *Polk County Record*, at Bartow.

Roy Trent Gallemore was born at Salisbury, Mo., September 8, 1895, the son of James G. and Ella (Trent) Gallemore. In 1911 he came to Bartow, Florida, with his parents, and completed his High School course at Summerlin Institute in that city. Immediately thereafter he received an appointment as midshipman in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, graduating with honor from that institution in 1917 with the rank of Lieutenant. He immediately entered active cruiser service, in which he was engaged throughout the World War, this service taking him to many foreign waters. During the period of disturbed conditions in Russia following the close of the World War, he was included in the naval forces sent to Russia. This assignment fulfilled, he was for five years in the government submarine service, being for two years commander of the United States Submarine R-15. When his father, for many years beloved and successful editor of the *Bartow Record*, died in 1924, young Gallemore received his honorable discharge from the Navy, and came to Bartow to take up the work his father had laid down. Since that time he has conducted the paper in a manner that perpetuates the reputation established for it by his father, in keeping with the highest standards and ideals of journalism.

Mr. Gallemore is a member of the Methodist church, being secretary of the Board of Stewards; is a member of the Kiwanis Club, which organization he has served as secretary; the Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic order, etc. He has

also served as treasurer of the South Florida Press Association, and is at the present vice-president of the Polk County Press Association.

He was married in December, 1919, to Miss Virginia Holland, of Bartow, and three lovely children have blessed this union: Roy Holland, James Gilbert, and Virginia Fram.

JACOB ALEXANDER GARRARD

J. A. GARRARD, practicing physician and former owner of the Corner Drug Store of Bartow, is a native Floridian, born at Brooksville, August 20, 1864. He is a son of Jacob Alexander and Julia (McLendon) Garrard, both of whom were from Georgia. The former was at one time overseer of a large plantation belonging to D. W. Yulee, builder of the first railroad in Georgia, and was a veteran of the Civil War.

J. A. Garrard obtained his early schooling in the public schools of Florida and Georgia, and in 1897 received his degree from the Southern Medical College, which later became Emory University.

Dr. Garrard started the practice of his profession at Fort White, in partnership with Dr. W. R. Groover, of Lakeland, and they also conducted a drug business. Dr. Garrard removed to Bartow in 1901 and has carried on his practice ever since. He was owner of the Corner Drug Store for some time, but sold out, this business now being the property of S. M. Wilson.

Dr. Garrard has valuable grove interests, owning over three hundred acres of bearing citrus trees. He is one of the largest grove owners in Polk county, and has other property throughout the State.

He was for ten years President of the Bartow City Council and also served as Chairman of the County School Board. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Woodmen of the World, K. of P. and Patriotic Order Sons of America.

Dr. Garrard was married in May, 1897, at Lake City to Hettie Niblack, of Fort White. They have four children: Mrs. Fred Lansdowne, of Valparaiso, Indiana, and George B., Joel C. and Watson S., of Bartow.

THOMAS W. GARY

A citizen who enjoys the respect and esteem not only of the people of his home city but of the entire county, is Major T. W. Gary, active vice-president of the State Bank of Bartow.

Major Gary was born in Newberry, South Carolina, December 29, 1870, the son of Martin H. and Alice L. Gary. His father was a gallant soldier of the Confederate Army, a member of the South Carolina regiment, and while engaged in a battle at Knoxville, Tenn., he was injured, losing an arm for the cause of his beloved Southland.

Major Gary, much of whose life has been devoted to military affairs, is a graduate of Patrick Military Institute, Anderson, South Carolina. Coming to Bartow in 1895, he was an instructor in the South Florida Military Institute for a period of ten years. Following his connection with this well-known institution of learning, which closed when the Institute was merged with the State University, Major Gary engaged for a time in the mercantile business. In 1907 he began his

banking career, serving as the first cashier of the State Bank of Bartow, of which institution he is now the active head.

Major Gary's military career in Polk County has been one of marked distinction, he having served as captain in the National Guard and during the World War was major of the Home Guard Battalion of Polk County.

Although many claims are made on Mr. Gary's time, he has given freely to the betterment of community interests. For many years he served on the City Council and is ex-City Tax Collector of Bartow. He is Past President of the Kiwanis Club, Past Master and Past High Priest of the local Masonic lodge, Past Eminent Commander of Bartow Commandery of Knights Templar and a member of the Shrine.

Mr. Gary and Willie Cassells were married at Johnston, South Carolina, December 29, 1897. They have one son, T. W. Jr., who, following his graduation at the Citadel, accepted a position with the First National Bank of Tampa.

GUS GENTILE

GUS GENTILE was born in Cincinnati, the youngest son of Joseph and Liboria Gentile. His father was born in Italy, coming to this country when 25 years of age.

Mr. Gentile was educated in the schools of Cincinnati, and his father having established a fruit business in that city in 1879, under the firm name of Jos. Gentile & Company, it was natural for him to become a part of the organization, which was later to become one of the largest shipping concerns of citrus fruit in Florida, known as Gentile Bros. Co.

Mr. Gentile is Polk County manager for Gentile Bros., who own and operate four packing houses in the county—at Haines City, Auburndale, Frostproof and Bartow. Last year they shipped about 750,000 boxes of fruit from Polk County, about 25 per cent. of which was their own.

Mr. Gentile and his brothers own 2000 acres of bearing groves in Polk County, the greater portion of which are in the Frostproof section. They also own 500 acres of unimproved land. They have been property owners in Polk County for the past sixteen years, Mr. Gentile first becoming interested in the Frostproof section in 1912.

Fraternally, Mr. Gentile is a Mason and a Shriner.

GEORGE H. GIBBONS

GEORGE H. GIBBONS, a resident of the county for the past forty-six years, and owner of the Scenic Highway Nurseries, the largest in the county, was born in Cordose, Brazil, the son of Asa and Isabelle Gibbons. His father was a contractor and builder and did much work in the gold mines of Brazil.

When a mere infant, Mr. Gibbons came to the United States with his parents, who first settled in Texas, coming to Florida in 1882, at which time they located at Bartow. His education was secured in the schools of Texas and Florida. On coming to Polk County Mr. Gibbons' father engaged in the contracting business at Bartow, settling at Waverly in 1883, at which time he set out orange groves for each of his children. Later the subject of this sketch bought out the other members of the family, and he now owns about 300 acres of land in Waverly, of which 60 acres are in bearing groves.

Mr. Gibbons' main large development is the Scenic Highway Nurseries, which he states is the second oldest and the largest nursery in the county. The stock is all guaranteed to be well rooted, well grown, true to name, and satisfactory in every particular. As a result of a policy of fair-dealing and absolute honesty in providing high-class stock, the Scenic Highway Nurseries has been developed into one of the most successful propositions of the kind in the State.

In addition to his nurseries, Mr. Gibbons also owns a large part of the property in the town-site of Waverly.

Mr. Gibbons is a Mason, Shriner, an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Pythias. He has one child, an adopted daughter, Lois.

HOMER G. GIBBS

HOMER G. GIBBS, of Winter Haven, who has had wide experience in engineering and architectural work, was born in Canton, Ohio, April 3, 1879, the son of Martin L. and Sarah A. (Trump) Gibbs. His paternal ancestors were from Scotland, his grandfather, Joshua Gibbs, a pioneer of Canton, being the first to manufacture steel plow shares in the State of Ohio. He and his sons were plow manufacturers.

Mr. Gibbs was educated in the schools of Ohio, his higher education being acquired at Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Being a mechanical and structural engineer, Mr. Gibbs has had a busy and an interesting career with a number of the leading industrial corporations of the country, where he filled positions of large responsibility. His first work was as engineer with the Parsons Pulp & Paper Company, of Parsons, W. Va., later doing engineering work for the American Steel Foundries, Bethlehem Steel Company, and the Dupont Powder Co. He was Superintendent of the Shell Drawing Plant, Pompton Lakes, N. J., and installed, organized and operated the Cannon Powder Export Case Plant of the Dupont Powder Co. at Wilmington, Del., of which he was also Superintendent.

In 1915 he connected with the Trojan Powder Co. of Allentown, Pa., where, during the World War, his versatility was taxed by the diversity of his activities. These comprised research work on chemical and explosive manufacture; installation, organization and operation of a sulphuric acid plant; development of process, design of equipment and buildings, installation, organization and operation as works manager of their grenade loading plant. The process developed was recommended by the U. S. Ordnance Dept. and used by the other grenade loading plants in the country. During the same period he served as Supervisor of Labor, Safety and Welfare Dept. and as manager of Realty Dept. for his company. He later installed and operated a blasting cap plant for the Trojan Company.

After the war he directed extensive tests, pioneer in scope, with large quantities of high explosives for his company, at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Mr. Gibbs has traveled abroad extensively and has studied the architecture of various European countries, Asia Minor and Northern Africa.

Coming to Winter Haven in January, 1926, Mr. Gibbs opened an architect's office, being associated in business with G. L. Kramer, in the firm of Gibbs & Kramer. Among other buildings designed by this firm are the Julian Paul garage, and the Central Florida Gas plant.

Mr. Gibbs is a singer and is president of the Winter Haven Municipal Chorus. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and is a Presbyterian. He is a Mason and a Shriner. He was married in 1925 in Allentown, Pa., to May E. Geist.

JOEL L. GIBSON

J. L. GIBSON was born in North Carolina, January 31, 1872, the son of Sam B. and Sarah J. (Earl) Gibson, the former an officer in the First North Carolina Cavalry of the Confederate army.

Upon the completion of his education, received in the schools of his native State, Mr. Gibson became an agent and telegraph operator for the railroad. Later, he was in the wholesale grocery business at Bryson City, North Carolina.

Mr. Gibson came to Lakeland in January, 1920, and organized the Gibson-Plott Company, the largest wholesale grocery house in Lakeland. The officers, all of them former Tar Heels, are as follows: J. O. Plott, president; J. L. Gibson, general manager; A. E. Brown, vice-president, and Horace W. Gibson, treasurer. This company thoroughly covers Polk County, and has been enlarged from time to time, to care for increased business.

Mr. Gibson is a Rotarian, member of the Baptist church and a loyal supporter of the Chamber of Commerce.

During the Spanish-American War Mr. Gibson served as Captain of Company L, North Carolina infantry, and while a resident of that State was commissioner of Swain county. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Masonic bodies.

He was married in North Carolina, September 29, 1895, to Douglas Franks. They have two children, Horace W. and Fern.

MANUEL M. GLOVER

MANUEL M. GLOVER, of the law firm of Glover & Beer, was born near Lakeland in 1901, the son of C. H. B. and Lena (Brewer) Glover. The former, now deceased, was a pioneer resident, coming to this section from South Carolina, and was a citrus grower.

Mr. Glover is a graduate of the Lakeland High School, and of the University of Florida, graduating with an LL.B. degree from the latter institution in 1925. Immediately thereafter he opened offices in Lakeland, having as his partner, Frank W. Beer, a classmate.

Mr. Glover is Justice of the Peace of the 10th district, having recently been re-elected to this office. He has discharged his duties conscientiously and courteously, and received a comfortable plurality in the primary.

He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and was vice-president of the Civitan Club. He belongs to the Kappa Sigma and Phi Delta Kappa fraternities, and to the State and County Bar Associations.

He was married to Gladys L. Wilson in DeLand.

STAPLETON D. GOOCH

STAPLETON D. GOOCH is a native of the State of Virginia, born at Louisa on August 3, 1888, the son of W. S. and Mary Stuart Gooch.

Mr. Gooch received special training in chemical engineering at the University

of Virginia, and shortly after the completion of this course, accepted a position with the Coronet Phosphate Company. He left this company a short time to work with the DuPont Company in New Jersey, but returned to the Coronet Company to accept the position of chemist and was promoted to superintendent and later to assistant manager.

He is now vice-president and manager of the Diamond Sand Company, the largest silica sand company in the State. This company is incorporated for $300,000, and ships from 500 to 2,000 tons daily from the two mines, which are located at Diamond near Lake Wales in Polk county and North Diamond in Putnam county.

Mr. Gooch was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce for the 1927-28 term, is a director of the State organization, and a member of the local school board. He belongs to the Rotary Club and is a Mason.

He was married to Anna V. Knight in Plant City, February 10, 1912, and they have two children, Stapleton D., Jr., and William R.

P. D. GOODYEAR

PEARLIE DUBOIS GOODYEAR was born at Waldo, Florida, October 21, 1884, the son of William Pinckney and Louise (Jolly) Goodyear.

Educated in the schools of Rochelle and Micanopy, Mr. Goodyear started his business career early, securing a position with the Atlantic Coast Line railway when but a lad of 16 years. For 28 years he has been with the same company and since 1904 has been a well-known and popular conductor of the road, maintaining his headquarters in Lakeland for the past 25 years.

Mr. Goodyear has seen Lakeland grow from small beginnings, and has always been interested in any progressive measure looking to its development. He is a member of the Methodist church, a Mason, Scottish Rite Shriner, Knights Templar and an Elk.

Mr. Goodyear has acquired considerable valuable property during his residence in Lakeland, and has great faith in the future of this section.

He was married December 23, 1906, to Anna Roland Lofton of High Springs. They have one son, Ernest DuBois.

WILLIAM D. GRAY

WILLIAM D. GRAY, banker, is a native Floridian, born at Midway, August 8, 1890. He is a son of William J. and Mary F. Gray, the former a retired Methodist minister, having come to this State from Georgia, and the latter born and reared near Madison, this State.

Mr. Gray graduated from the Madison High School and attended Emory University two years. Returning to Madison, he taught school six years and resigned from the teaching profession to become cashier of the First National Bank of that city.

Mr. Gray came to Winter Haven February 15, 1923, to be cashier of the American National Bank, which office he now holds. He is prominently identified with other branches of the financial life of this section, being treasurer and a director of the Florida Southern Abstract and Title Company, and a director of the Winter Haven Building and Loan Association.

Mr. Gray is deeply interested in civic and spiritual matters. He was a member of the City Council of Madison, is a member of the Winter Haven Board of School Trustees, ex-vice-president and a director of the Chamber of Commerce, and past president of the Exchange Club. A devout member of the Methodist church, he is on the Board of Stewards and teacher of the Oxford class, which is the Bible class of the Sunday School. During the war, he served as Chairman of the Liberty Loan and War Savings Stamps drive. His fraternal memberships include Masonry, Woodmen of the World, Knights of Pythias, and Knights Templar. He is treasurer of the local chapter of the Masonic Order and K. of P.

Mr. Gray was married December 22, 1915, at Madison to Wynema Burnette. They have one daughter, Mary Elizabeth, aged 10 years.

B. H. GRIFFIN

B. H. GRIFFIN, prominent citizen of Frostproof, and a Polk County resident for the past 41 years, is a Georgian by birth, born in Decatur County in 1876, the son of Dred and Margaret Elizabeth Griffin.

Coming to Polk County in 1887, his parents first located at Lakeland where they lived four years, later moving to Mulberry.

Mr. Griffin was connected with the Palmetto Phosphate Company for eighteen years, removing to Frostproof in 1917, where he had for several years owned valuable property. He lived later at Fort Meade, but in 1925 again became a resident of Frostproof.

Mr. Griffin is a large orange grower, having about 100 acres in bearing groves in the Frostproof section. For recreation, he finds much pleasure in hunting, this being his favorite sport. He has hunted over practically the entire State.

He was married at Mulberry to Sarah G. Maxcy and they have four children: Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. M. E. Stevens), Julia (Mrs. J. K. Enzor), Sarah Naomi and Ben H., Jr. Fraternally, Mr. Griffin is a Mason.

WILLIAM ROWAN GROOVER

WILLIAM ROWAN GROOVER, M.D., is a native Floridian, having been born in Columbia County, August 9, 1867, a son of Rowan Joseph and Julia (Douglass) Groover. His father, who served the Confederate army with distinction during the War Between the States, was a native of Georgia; his mother was born in Columbia County, and was a member of a prominent pioneer family. She died last year at the age of 82 years.

Dr. Groover attended the public schools of his county, and taught several years in order to secure money to attend Emory College, receiving his degree in medicine from that institution in 1892.

Following his graduation, the subject of this sketch practiced at Fort White, moving to Lakeland in 1898, where he has been a successful practitioner and an exceedingly popular citizen. Doctor Groover has also been one of the leading financial men of the county, being president of the Southern Finance Corporation, which he organized in 1923, with a capital of $100,000.00, and is president of Groover & Son, Insurance Agents. In addition to his other interests, he owns five valuable groves, three of which are at Lakeland, one at Kissimmee and one at Lake

Placid. His lovely home on Lake Morton Drive, where he has lived for thirty years, is situated in the midst of one of these.

Dr. Groover has always been active in any movement for the good of the county, and can be depended upon to give his time and money to such an enterprise. He is a charter member of the Kiwanis Club, and belongs to the Chamber of Commerce, Masonic Order, Knights of Pythias and the American, State and County Medical Associations; also a member of the American Legion and 40 and 8. He attends the First Presbyterian church.

He was married in Columbia County, April 11, 1891, to Mary Mathilda Knowles, now deceased; their children are: Morgan, who is engaged in the insurance business with his father; Sue Ella, wife of R. N. Skipper, and Mary Agnes, wife of Judge Spessard Holland of Bartow. He married Katherine Lyle, December 7, 1927, at Lake Butler, at the home of his mother.

GEORGE W. HALDEMAN

GEORGE W. HALDEMAN, transatlantic flier and renowned Lakeland citizen, is playing a large part in the development of aviation possibilities, and in so doing is gaining for Lakeland and Polk County much favorable publicity. In addition to his memorable flight with Ruth Elder, which took place October 11 and 12, 1927, he also in the late spring of 1928, broke the world's record for sustained flight.

Mr. Haldeman was born in McPherson, Kansas, the son of J. J. and Maude Haldeman. He attended the schools of his native State, and graduated from the Lakeland High School, where he removed with his parents a number of years ago. Later he was a student at the Military School of Aeronautics, and received practical experience during the war, when he was a member of the air service, and was one of the youngest commissioned officers in the service.

After the war, Mr. Haldeman organized the Inter-City Airline Corporation, and conducted a school for fliers from 1919 until 1922. From the latter year until 1925 he was owner of the Dixie Highway Garage at Lakeland, but continued flying and also had a half interest in the Waco agency for the State. For two years thereafter he was associated with his father in the real estate business.

Mr. Haldeman and Ruth Elder attempted a transatlantic flight in the fall of 1927, and their miraculous rescue at sea is known to residents of every country in the world. At the present time Mr. Haldeman is associated with Eddie Stinson in the airplane business.

He is a member of the Order of Quiet Birdmen, a national organization of army pilots who are continuing the development of aviation. He belongs to the Kiwanis Club of Lakeland and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Mr. Haldeman and Virginia Lufsey were married in North Carolina and they have one son, George William, Jr.

J. J. HALDEMAN

J. J. HALDEMAN, prominent realtor of Lakeland, was born at Morgantown, West Virginia, October 4, 1871, the son of William Z. and Adaline Jane Haldeman. He was educated in the schools of West Virginia and the State Agricultural College of Manhattan, Kansas, and McPherson, Kansas. In the latter place he

farmed for a period of ten years, and later entered the insurance business, remaining in Kansas until 1914.

He opened offices at Lakeland twelve years ago and in addition to his real estate activities, has been a developer of orange groves and farms in central Florida, and the developing of poultry farms near Lake Gibson is now being put over in a large way, under his supervision. He worked with the Chamber of Commerce in bringing the National Carpenters' Home to Lakeland, and negotiated the sale of the Cleveland Heights property to the H. A. Stahl Company, of which organization he is a director.

Mr. Haldeman was president of the Lakeland Real Estate Board for five successive terms. He lent his assistance in organizing the Board, and is a director and chairman of the Appraisal Board.

Mr. Haldeman was a member of the county committee formed for the promotion of good roads; he has served five years on the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the Kiwanis Club, and is serving at present as chairman of the local school board.

He was married at McPherson, Kansas, on August 11, 1895, to Alpha Maude Fields, and they have five children: May, wife of Roy Amidon; George W., world-renowned aviator, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Ruth, wife of Douglas Van Sickler; Grace and Walter.

G. WALLACE HALL

G. W. HALL, owner of the Lakeland Sheet Metal Works, was born at Slina, Pennsylvania, November 19, 1901, the son of T. C. and Elizabeth (Lampman) Hall. On his paternal side he is of Scotch-English descent, and his mother's ancestors were from France and England. They were pioneer settlers in Pennsylvania, and Mr. Hall's grandfather was a veteran of the Civil War.

G. W. Hall attended the public schools of Erie, Pennsylvania, and for two years was a student at Harvard. He came to Lakeland in 1923 and established his business, in which he has been quite successful. In 1923 he employed seven people, and, due to enlarged business, has enlarged this number to 68. This firm has been awarded some of the largest contracts in the county, including Morrell Memorial Hospital, City Hall and Auditorium, of Lakeland, several schools and also the Marble Arcade and Florida Hotel at Lakeland.

Mr. Hall is a member of the Civitan Club and the Masonic order and worships at the Methodist church.

Mr. Hall and Edna York were married in June, 1923, at Erie, Pennsylvania. They have one daughter, Betty.

WILLARD FORDYCE HALLAM

WILLARD FORDYCE HALLAM was a builder whose work stands as an enduring monument to his vision, judgment and business acumen. He was one of the foremost developers who laid the foundation upon which the superstructure of Polk County's greatness has been builded. Moreover, he was a man of the highest type, whose record in business, citizenship and friendship is without blot or stain.

Mr. Hallam, who was born in Monmouth, Ill., in June, 1867, was the son of

Absolom and Miriam (Bowen) Hallam. When an infant his parents removed to Iowa, in which State he was reared and educated. Before engaging in the development business his career was varied, beginning as a telegrapher and then becoming station agent at Dubuque, Iowa. He was later in the publishing business, being connected with the *Success Magazine,* the *Encyclopedia Brittanica* and *Messages and Papers of the Presidents.* During this period he maintained offices in many of the principal cities of the country and at this time, also, he built a magnificent home at Harper's Ferry, W. Va.

Coming to Florida in 1910, he became interested in the Lakeland section and bought 13,000 acres of land six miles southeast of that city, which has since been far-famed as the Lakeland Highlands—a beauty spot wrought from the wilderness —5,000 acres of bearing citrus trees now standing as a living monument to the man who created this undertaking, and whose vision of a Greater Lakeland enabled him to achieve what at that time seemed to be the impossible.

As when in the publishing business, Mr. Hallam had offices in all of the larger cities of the north and east, and was the means of bringing much outside capital to the Lakeland section. He sold tracts for groves only to those people who would agree to develop their property—indeed, after a very few first sales, he sold only planted groves—and as a result this is one of the most thoroughly developed propositions in the State.

Mr. Hallam's untimely death, on May 29, 1920, as the result of drowning at St. Petersburg Beach while in bathing with a party of friends, removed one of the most honored and most useful citizens of the county.

Mr. Hallam is survived by his wife, formerly Mary Van Dake, of Indianapolis, Ind., and two children, Mrs. C. R. Gladman and Willard Van Dake Hallam. The family make their home in Lakeland and carry on the affairs of the estate, owning about 3,000 acres of land in the Highlands, and about 250 acres in citrus groves.

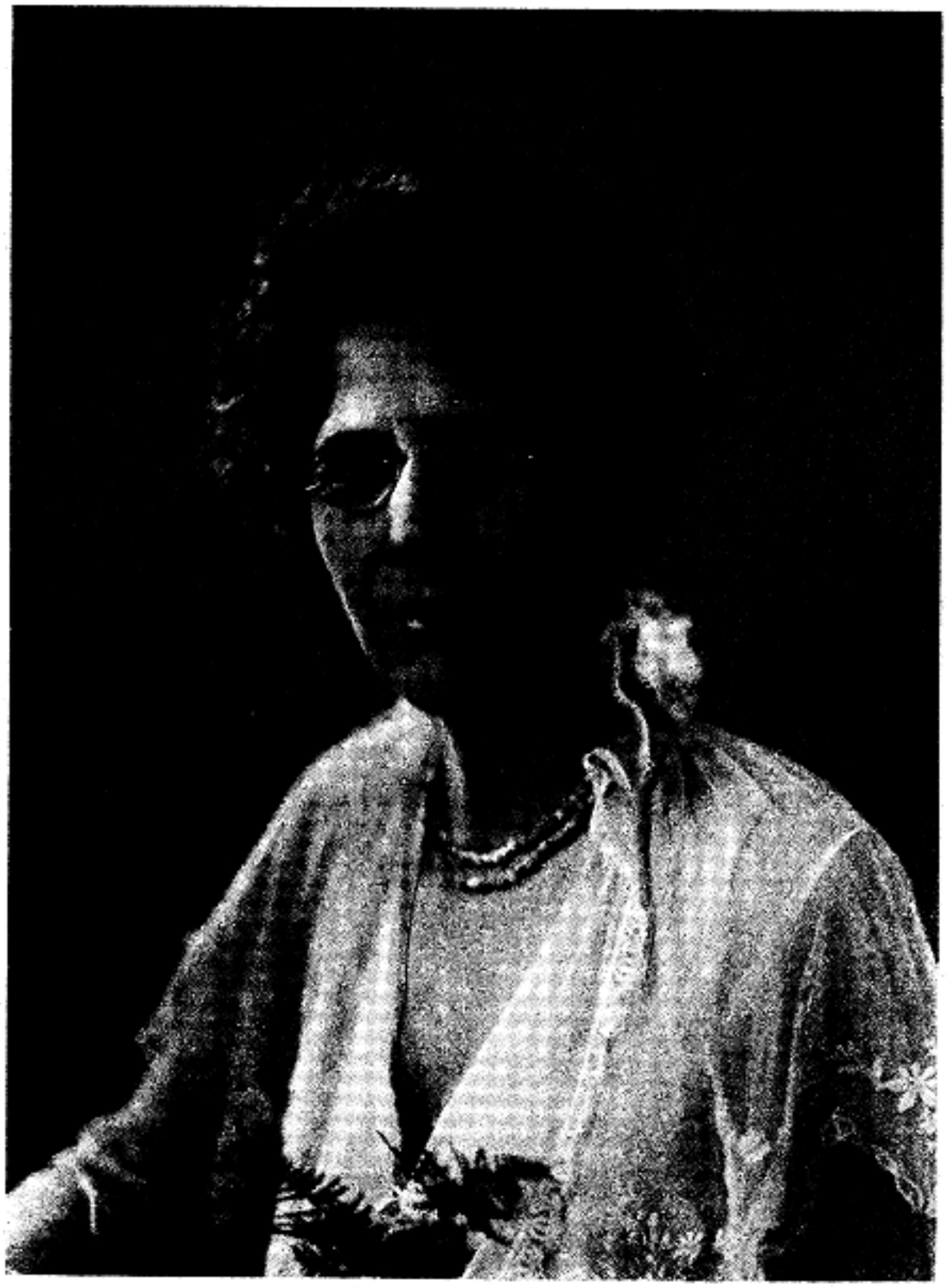
W. H. HAMILTON

W. H. HAMILTON was born in Santa Rosa County, this State, January 11, 1892, the son of Edward M. and Rosa Lee Hamilton, both of whom are native Floridians. He attended the schools of his home county, subsequently graduating with an LL. degree from the Atlanta Law School.

He began the practice of his profession in Atlanta. In 1923 he established offices in Winter Haven, and recently formed a partnership with Hart McKillop. This firm, one of the largest in the city, does a general practice with the exception of criminal work, and numbers among its clients many important companies and banks.

Mr. Hamilton has a splendid war record. He was a member of the 82nd division of the Field Artillery, stationed at Camp Gordon for one year, and from August until November was at the front during the Argonne drive. He held the rank of corporal.

He is a director of the Snell National Bank, and owns valuable citrus property. He has a well-rounded interest in other matters than those pertaining to business, being a member of the Masonic order, Shrine, Knights Templar, Knights of



Rev. M. Grace B. Hamm

Pythias, Baptist church and Chamber of Commerce. In connection with his legal status, he belongs to the American, State and County Bar Associations.

Mr. Hamilton and Mary F. Lyle were married in Atlanta, and they have two children, William H., Jr., and Rose Mary.

W. M. HAMPTON

William Morgan Hampton, large citrus grower and land-owner, the son of B. M. and Mary Morgan Hampton, was born at Cherry Vale, Kansas, April 13, 1873.

His childhood and early manhood were spent in Colorado and New Mexico, where his family was engaged in cattle ranching and mining. He paid his first visit to Florida thirty-seven years ago, when he spent two years at Avon Park, leaving the state to go to Des Moines, where for eleven years he was connected with the C. C. Taft Fruit Company. Before returning to Florida he was in business in Philadelphia, and after two years on the East Coast where he formed a corporation to operate a large pineapple plantation and was secretary for the Deerfield Tomato Growers' Association, one of the first cooperative marketing organizations on the East Coast, he established his home at Winter Haven.

Nineteen years ago Mr. Hampton planted about a hundred acres in citrus groves, and since that time has started many other groves in the county. He has other valuable holdings, including several thousand acres of land near Winter Haven.

He was president of the first packing-house established at Eagle Lake under H. C. Schrader and Company, and later engaged extensively in buying and selling land. When the First State Bank was formed at Winter Haven, Mr. Hampton was elected vice-president and has been an inportant factor in its growth. In 1922 he was one of the organizers and secretary of the Brogdex Company, manufacturers of a product for the preservation of citrus fruit during shipment, and soon after accompanied E. M. Brogden, the inventor, to California where they interested capitalists in the organization of a large financing company, which has since become international in its importance. Mr. Hampton is at present Florida manager for this company.

Although extremely interested in business, Mr. Hampton has not lost sight of the fact that a good citizen gives of his time to civic matters. He has, perhaps, spent more time serving on the city council and commission than any other man in Winter Haven. He was one of the first mayors of the city, and has served two terms since, during which time he arranged for the building of the first streets, and was instrumental in changing the charter to provide for a commission form of government, under which he is now one of the commissioners.

He was married to Selma Friedrickson of Des Moines, and they have four children: a daughter, Ethelyn, born at Spencer, Iowa, and three sons, Marshall, Jack, and William, all of whom were born in Winter Haven.

DR. M. GRACE BLACKMAN HANNA

Dr. M. Grace Blackman Hanna is a Lakeland woman who has carved for herself a career of usefulness, helpfulness and inspiration to all with whom she

comes in contact. Her influence for good will live long after she has passed from this earthly sphere. She is owner and proprietor of The Lakeland Sanitarium, one of the most complete institutions in the State for the treatment of all kinds of "un-health", physical or mental, to which flesh is heir.

Dr. Hanna was born near Harrisburg, Illinois, January 31, 1879. She is the daughter of Elder James Hugh and Sarah Elizabeth (Church) Blackman. Her father was a "good and faithful servant" of his Lord, a minister, both pastor and evangelist, of the Baptist faith; revered by all who knew him and loved by them he served, to a degree of rare devotion. He was of English descent, the Blackman family having figured in the English Parliament from time immemorial. Her mother was a devout and faithful co-worker with her husband and her God in the extension of His Kingdom; and has to her ancestry Captain Church who figured so extensively in making our own fair Florida safe from Indian warfare. Her line also reaches back to Thomas Rolfe, the only child of John Rolfe and "Lady Rebecca," the little Indian Princess, Pocahontas. Dr. Hanna has in her private museum some feathers from a mattress used by Pocahontas, and at present is much interested in the permanent preservation of the dowery of Pocahontas, as purposed in the recent Rockefeller purchase. This is said to be the oldest brick building of English construction in the U. S. and is situated across the James River from Jamestown, Va.

Having been a diligent student from childhood Dr. Hanna has secured a liberal education, both from a literary and professional standpoint, and is, indeed, wonderfully equipped for her life work. She graduated from Creal Springs College with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy, later from the American College of Machano-Therapy, taking both the degree of Doctor and that of Diplomat of Suggestive Therapeutics. Before coming to Florida she was elected to the office of County Superintendent of Public Instruction of her home county in Illinois, a position which she was in every way well qualified to hold. She was also elected to the chair of Mathematics and Literature in her first Alma Mater but declined in order to "chase her favorite phantom" in the "Land of Flowers."

Coming to Lakeland fifteen years ago (January, 1913) Dr. Hanna established The Lakeland Sanitarium which institution occupied the second floor of the State Bank Building for ten years. Her reputation, skill and close personal attention to each patient, coupled with the remarkable results obtained, gained for her institution such a large patronage that larger quarters were found imperative. This led to the purchase of the commodious Tweedell home which was reconstructed, enlarged and converted into an up-to-date sanitarium. This was soon outgrown and an annex and more elaborate equipment came forth. As one surveys the scope covered by these wonderful forces of nature represented by the equipment, he is made to feel that the term—"The Natural Way"—is required to define the marvelous therapeutic measures employed.

This is "The Natural Way" originated by that sage of our age, Dr. George Starr White of Los Angeles, California, who is known through his many marvelous books and appliances throughout the civilized world. It is he who devised the first electric light bath cabinet and other electric light treatment outfits now used in

every modern hospital and sanitarium in the world. It is he who discovered that the "orientation" (finding their way home) of birds and other animals was caused by the effect on them of the magnetic meridian, and that any constitutional diseases caused the loss of this power. It is he who harnessed the "Finer Forces of Nature," such as the magnetic meridian, ultra-red rays, rhythmic lights, gravity and complimentary colors for the diagnosis and treatment of all ills; and it is he to whom Dr. Hanna gives praise for having so altered her understanding of Nature's laws, and enlarged her sphere of usefulness to suffering humanity.

Dr. Hanna's sanitarium, nestled on the shores of Lake Morton, is an ideal place for rest and recuperation as the environment is particularly cheerful and homelike. Lovely flowers adorn the grounds which force the casual observer to realize that here, indeed, is a place where ills would vanish amid surroundings both ideal and uplifting. The spirit of the "Brotherhood of Man" pervades this institution. "Upon entering," one has said, "a sweet feeling of peace and security seem to enfold you. And you will understand why, when you behold the Scripture texts on the walls and the bold declaration over the doorway: 'Christ is the Head of this House, the Unseen Guest at every meal, the Silent Listener to every conversation.' Care seems to vanish and unkind thoughts far removed. So conscious are you of the Unseen Presence that you have the feeling of having entered an ancient cathedral where the prayers of the saints have ascended like incense, and thoughts turn to holy things."

Dr. Hanna's scope of usefulness is not confined to her professional career alone, she is a Bible student of repute, and a tireless church worker, having for years taught a large Sunday school class in the First Baptist church of Lakeland. She is a recognized authority on the Bible, and lives her religion. She is an able lecturer, and her influence is far-reaching. She gives liberally of her means for the furtherance of any worthy cause, and has done much toward the advancement of her community, both from a civic and spiritual standpoint.

Her steadfast fortitude under trial, and her hopeful optimism under difficulties challenge the downcast "To take heart again." This thought is corroborated in the following appreciative lines to her by Mrs. Alice H. Muir:

"Because you let me warm my heart by your steady fire of love,
And fed my shriveled, famished soul with wisdom from Above,
And fired my lagging brain with ambition strong and true,
Though world should part, I'll always have a tender love for you."

Briefly summing up: The keynote of her life may be sounded forth in the song of the angels at the advent of the world's Redeemer: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward man."

JOHN BROWN HANNAH

J. B. HANNAH was born in Braichnel, Ill., April 12, 1883, the son of James and Janet Hannah. His parents were born in Scotland, and his father was engaged in the mining business for a number of years in the West, being superintendent of a mine in Kansas.

Mr. Hannah came to Lakeland eighteen years ago, since which time he has been prominently identified with the Atlantic Coast Line shops of that place, being foreman of the Locomotive Department, which handles an average of seventy locomotives.

He attended the schools of New Mexico and Kansas, and his first business experience was gained with the Central Coal and Coke Company in Kansas. He was engaged in various parts of the west and northwest with different railroads as machinist, coming to Florida in 1907.

Mr. Hannah owns considerable valuable property in and near Lakeland, his home being located amid a fine 12-acre orange grove just north of the city, between Griffin and Galloway.

He was married at Lakeland in 1916 to Beulah Hooks, a Lakeland girl, who was a teacher in the schools of the county, is ex-secretary of the Sorosis Club, president of the Board of Sponsors of the Camp Fire Girls, and is prominent in club activities of all kinds. She is a daughter of the late Col. T. J. Hooks. Fraternally, Mr. Hannah is affiliated with Lakeland Lodge No. 1291, B. P. O. E.

A. B. HARRINGTON

A. B. HARRINGTON, Winter Haven's first contractor and builder, was born in Warwick, Rhode Island, in 1853, becoming a resident of Polk County in 1885, when he settled in Auburndale, two years later locating at Winter Haven, where he lived until his death on November 2, 1913.

Mr. Harrington received his education in the schools of Rhode Island and Connecticut, and began his business career as a builder at Brantford, Conn., following this trade the remainder of his life. He built all the early buildings of Winter Haven, and erected the first part of the Florence Villa Hotel in 1889, which was originally a house of ten rooms, the home of the late Dr. Inman. He later built the addition of twenty rooms, and in 1903 added 43 more rooms. In addition to the hotel he built other buildings in Winter Haven, including the first school buildings of any importance.

Mr. Harrington helped to organize the Snell National Bank, and was one of its directors. He was also one of the organizers of the Florence Villa Citrus Growers' Association, and was vice-president and one of the directors of this organization until the time of his death. He was a member of the Board of County Commissioners for four years. He was progressive in all matters, and was always interested in any movement looking to the betterment of his community. He was much interested in school affairs and served as a member of the local school board.

Mr. Harrington was largely interested in citrus culture and owned several fine groves, one of which his widow still retains. Since his death, Mrs. Harrington built one of the finest homes in Winter Haven, and like her husband, has a keen interest in the community and aids wherever possible in its advancement.

Mr. Harrington was a Mason and a Shriner. He was married in 1880 to Elizabeth Hartley, of Willimantic, Connecticut.



A. B. Herrington

ELMER E. HARRIS

ELMER E. HARRIS, the son of F. A. K. Harris, was born in Winter Haven, August 12, 1894.

His education received in the Winter Haven schools was supplemented with advanced work at Rollins College, later graduated from the Case School of Applied Science.

Mr. Harris spent several years in the north, being electrical salesman in Pittsburgh and Cleveland with the Electric Control and Manufacturing Company. He later engaged in electrical contract work.

In 1921 Mr. Harris returned to Winter Haven where he has large interests, to which he gives his time and attention. He built the Harris Arcade, one of Winter Haven's modern business buildings, and owns a one-half interest in Grand Theater.

Mr. Harris was married in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1918 to Geraldine Clark. They have two children: Margaret Jean and Catherine Adele.

FRED A. K. HARRIS

Among the very early settlers of Winter Haven was F. A. K. Harris, first postmaster of the community and builder of the first business house of that place. From 1884, when he arrived in Florida, until the time of his death, in 1920, he was identified with every public-spirited movement in Winter Haven.

Mr. Harris was born in Lyndon, Vermont, in 1858, the son of Amasa O. and Caroline (Bigelow) Harris. He attended Lyndon Institute, and the Eastman Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and at the age of nineteen years went west for his health, owning a sheep ranch in Nebraska. Five years later, he removed to Florida and purchased 28 acres of land near Lake Lulu, which he planted to citrus fruit. He purchased the first lot sold in the Winter Haven locality, and erected a store building, in which, besides his business, the post office was housed.

Mr. Harris was quite successful, and accumulated valuable property. During the later years of his life he made frequent trips to Vermont to attend to interests in that State, and also gave his personal attention to his store and groves at Winter Haven. He served as Justice of the Peace for some time before his death.

He was married in DeWitt, Nebraska, to Adelle Kennison, and two sons were born to this union: Bertram A., and Elmer K., both of whom live in Winter Haven.

DR. JAMES HARRIS

DR. JAMES HARRIS was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 18, 1862, the son of James T. and Julia Ann Harris, whose families were originally from Scotland. He attended the local schools, and in 1893 graduated with an M. D. degree from the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery.

He practiced in Cincinnati for fourteen years, and was very successful, being financially able to retire at the end of that time. In 1919 he removed to Lakeland, since which time he has devoted his energies to the promotion of the citrus industry in Polk County. Dr. Harris owns a fine grove and home in the Lakeland Highlands, and for two years was Manager of the Lakeland Highlands Co-Operative

Association. He was a member of the committee which drew up the clearing house plan for the marketing of citrus fruit, and is now a member of the committee of fifty to put the plan into effect. Dr. Harris was instrumental in organizing the Florida Interior Traffic Bureau, and has given this organization loyal support. He was president and director of the Highland City Light and Power Company at the time it was sold to Lakeland.

During the World War Dr. Harris was a member of the Examining Board at Cincinnati, personally examining 3,000 men.

He was married in Cincinnati April 7, 1897, to Gertrude Keene. He is a member of the Masonic Order, Scottish Rite and Shrine. Was a charter member of the Southland Lodge 256, F. & A. M.

N. W. HART

N. W. HART was born at Inverness, Florida, October 1, 1897, the son of Edward Hart, a native of this State. With his parents he early removed to Wauchula, and attended the high school of that place. His higher education was received at the State University and at Vanderbilt.

Mr. Hart became identified with the furniture business in 1920 at Bartow, and after a few months moved to Tampa, where he was with Tarr's. In 1922 he established his own business at Winter Haven, and the following year erected a substantial building in which to house it. He purchased the Polk County Furniture Company, located at Bartow, and in the same year, 1926, established a branch at Lake Wales. Each store is incorporated, and Mr. Hart is president of the three concerns.

Another rapidly growing enterprise of Mr. Hart's is the Auburndale Furniture Factory, which manufactures fiber furniture and over-stuffed cane back and wicker furniture. This is the only plant of the kind in Florida, and the output finds a ready market all over the State. Mr. Hart has recently purchased new equipment for the plant, which will increase production.

He is a member of the Exchange Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Alpha Tau Omega college fraternity, the Masonic order and Egypt Temple Shrine.

Mr. Hart and Mary D. Daniels were married at Bartow, and they have one son, Norman W., Jr.

E. L. HASKINS

E. L. HASKINS was born in Elk Garden, West Virginia, July 24, 1884, the son of R. J. and Josephine Haskins. The former now makes his home in Tavares, moving to that city from Winter Haven, where he settled in 1903.

Mr. Haskins entered the real estate business in Winter Haven in 1906, and also engaged in fruit growing. He has been in partnership with Paul Bailey since 1907, with the exception of three years, and the firm is the oldest of its kind in the city.

Mr. Haskins and Mr. Bailey own more than one hundred acres of bearing trees, and the former has planted several citrus nurseries.

Mr. Haskins is a member of the Board of Governors of the Chamber of Commerce, and was the first secretary of that organization; he was also the first secre-

tary of the first Masonic order of Winter Haven and a charter member. He is also President of the Lions Club. He was recently appointed field manager of the Polk County Sub-Exchange of the Florida Citrus Exchange.

Many forward movements of worthwhile development have had the hearty support of Mr. Haskins, and he holds a prominent place in the civic life of Winter Haven, in addition to being one of that section's recognized citrus authorities.

Mr. Haskins was married to Carrie E. Jaehde in Leesburg on April 8, 1913.

T. T. HATTON

T. T. HATTON, superintendent-elect of public instruction of Polk County, was born in La Mesa, New Mexico, June 22, 1888, the son of Robert C. and Clara E. Hatton. He was educated in the schools of that State, completing his preparatory education in Kentucky, and was a student at Vanderbilt University. He received his LL.B. degree from the Atlanta Law School.

The family removed to Bartow in 1910, and until his death R. C. Hatton was vice-president and manager of the Southern Land Securities Company, and a man highly honored by the entire community.

T. T. Hatton was connected with the Southern Land Securities Company for fourteen years, at which time, in 1924, all the company's holdings were sold. Since that time he has engaged in a general real estate and insurance business, in partnership with his brother, R. C. Hatton. They are sales agents for La Serena, one of the outstanding developments in the Bartow section.

Mr. Hatton's civic duties have been many. He has served on the city council eight years, and was mayor two terms, during which time the erection of the city hospital was begun and other improvements made. During the war he was deputy food commissioner, and was chairman of the public speaking for Liberty Loan drives, being a recognized leader in all undertakings of this character.

Mr. Hatton is ex-president of the Kiwanis Club; is a Mason and belongs to the Sigma Chi college fraternity.

He was married May 8, 1920, in Bartow to Pearl C. Holliday. They have three children: T. T., Jr., Alex F., and Virginia Lee.

W. A. HEATH

W. A. HEATH, owner of a chain of Five, Ten and Twenty-Five cent Stores, was born at Grafton, New Hampshire.

Before coming to Winter Haven in 1916, Mr. Heath was engaged in the mercantile business at Lyndonville, Vermont. His Florida enterprise, which has been markedly successful, was begun at Winter Haven. Here he established his first store, expanding until he now has a chain of these stores, located at Bartow, Lake Wales, Plant City, Avon Park, Eustis and Leesburg, known as the Associated 5-10 and 25 Cent Stores. In 1925 the firm's business amounted to approximately $500,000.00.

Mr. Heath has been interested in growing citrus fruit, and has several valuable groves. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and fraternally is affiliated with the Masonic Order.

CLAIRE HENLEY

CLAIRE HENLEY, one of Lakeland's progressive and successful citizens, whose business capacity has enabled him to acquire much valuable property, including three of Lakeland's leading drug stores and one in Tampa, has lived in Lakeland for the past thirty years, coming to that city in August, 1898, from Apopka, Florida, the town of his birth. The son of Dr. L. F. and Sallie Jane (Cook) Henley, Claire Henley took up the reins of business laid down by his honored father at the latter's death, and has earned the deserved success that has been his. For many years his father was one of Lakeland's much beloved physicians, whose skill brought him a large practice, and whose many noble traits of character will live long in the memory of his friends.

Claire Henley was born in Apopka, January 6, 1886, and came to Lakeland when a lad of twelve years. After graduating from the Lakeland High School and Stetson University at DeLand he took a course in pharmacy at the College of Pharmacy in Atlanta, and joined his father in the management of Henley's, the main Lakeland store and the only one then established. With the coming of added population to that city, Mr. Henley branched out and now owns, in addition to the big main store, the Magnolia Pharmacy, the Arcade Pharmacy, and a drug store in Tampa. He has also accumulated much valuable real estate, and is half-owner of the brick business block on North Florida avenue occupied by the Ford agency.

Mr. Henley has, in years past, given largely of his time and means in promoting baseball in Lakeland, and was the owner of the Lakeland team when Lakeland was a member of the State League. Through his interest and efforts Lakeland enjoyed baseball of the highest type for many years.

Mr. Henley is an Elk, a member of the Lakeland Country Club and attends the First Baptist church. He was married in May, 1908, to Sallie Lou Battle, daughter of L. R. and Emma Battle, one of Lakeland's prominent families who early settled in that community. Mr. and Mrs. Henley have one daughter, Mableclare.

THOMAS B. HENDRIX

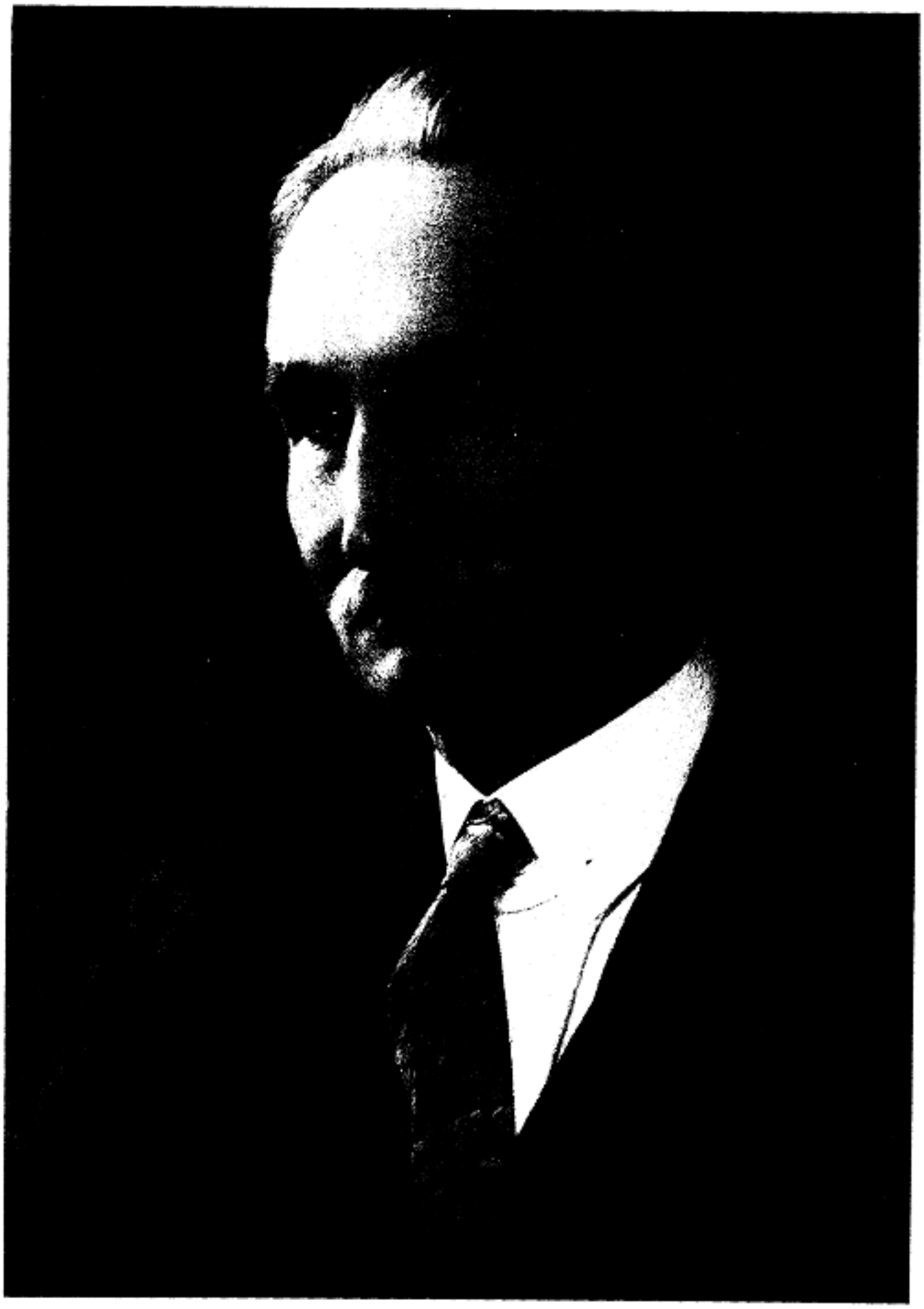
T. B. HENDRIX was born in Eufaula, Alabama, in 1872, the son of Whitfield and Mary Jane Hendrix. The former was a veteran of the Civil War, a member of the Alabama regiment. He removed his family to Orlando in 1882, where he was engaged in the mercantile business until the time of his death.

Mr. Hendrix removed to Lakeland in 1895, and for eighteen years conducted a grocery and market, and was in the cattle business, in which industry he retains valuable holdings in Lee County.

Mr. Hendrix is a large property owner and builder. He has recently completed a large business building on North Kentucky avenue, and erected the building in which Venable's Market is located. He owned valuable property on Massachusetts avenue, but sold same to the city three years ago, and on this property is now located the central fire station.

He is a member of the Rotary Club, and fraternally is allied with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

He was married in Apopka, this State, to Theodosia Cannon, and they have one daughter, Hilda (Mrs. R. Alderman).



M. F. Netherington

RICHARD A. HENRY

R. A. Henry, one of the organizers of the Haven Villa corporation, and a citrus grower of note, was born in Montgomery county, Indiana, June 12, 1865, the son of William H. and Martha (Simmons) Henry. The former, a pioneer of Indiana, was engaged in raising stock and farming.

After his graduation from Union Christian college, Mr. Henry formed a connection with the Indianapolis Stove Company, and was with this firm 25 years.

He removed to Winter Haven January 1, 1922, and became interested in the Brogdex company. He is manager of the brokerage department of the Haven Villa corporation, and is a director of the organization.

Since his arrival in the Polk county city, Mr. Henry has been a member of the Board of Governors of the Chamber of Commerce. As chairman of a committee to get gas for the city he persuaded Ralph B. Wagner to form a company for this purpose. The plant, which recently began operating, was completed in March, 1928, and Mr. Henry is vice-president of the company, known as the Central Florida Gas corporation. For his work in this connection he was presented the "Bankers' Cup" for 1928, given each year to the citizen performing the most outstanding service to his community.

Mr. Henry is a member of the Presbyterian church, and was instrumental in securing the contribution for $11,000 worth of chimes. He belongs to the local, State and National Realty Boards.

Mr. Henry and Lou Retta Hormell were married in Montgomery county, Indiana, May 29, 1890. They have one daughter, Eleanor, wife of R. M. Inman, of Winter Haven.

M. F. HETHERINGTON

M. F. HETHERINGTON was born December 27, 1867, at Elkton, Todd County, Kentucky. Both parents died when he was an infant, and he started life in an orphan asylum near Bardstown, Ky. He grew up in the latter town, and received an education by alternately working as "devil" in a country printing office, and with the money thus earned, attending St. Joseph's College at Bardstown. In 1891 he purchased the *Lebanon Enterprise* at Lebanon, Ky., and for seven years conducted that paper, then for two years edited the *Marion Falcon,* also at Lebanon. Considerations of the health of his family caused him to leave Kentucky and come to Florida in July, 1900. He became associated with B. B. Tatum in the publication of the *Miami Metropolis,* first a weekly newspaper, then becoming Miami's first daily. This paper is now the *Miami News,* owned by Hon. James M. Cox, of Ohio.

In 1904 he removed to Lakeland and purchased the *Lakeland News,* a small weekly. He converted *The News* into the *Lakeland Evening Telegram* in 1911, this being Polk County's first daily. He owned and edited the *Evening Telegram* until December, 1920, when he sold this property, retiring from active newspaper work.

In Kentucky he was Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue under Cleveland's second administration. He was a member of the Advisory Board of Polk County, representing the citizens in the project of constructing the county-wide road sys-

tem; is chairman of the City Advisory Board; a member of the Catholic church, the Rotary Club, Past Exalted Ruler of the Elks and past president of the Florida Press Association. For ten successive years he has been treasurer of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, and holds that position at this time.

Mr. Hetherington has been twice married—the first time to Lillie Blanford, of Bardstown, Ky., in June, 1891; the second marriage in October, 1903, to Lillian Derieux, daughter of Dr. J. L. Derieux, Lakeland's first physician. There are three sons, Eugene, William and Marion by the first marriage, and one daughter, Marjorie, by the second.

DEAN HICKMAN

DEAN HICKMAN was born in Jerseyville, Illinois, October 28, 1868, the son of John B. and Sylinda E. (Chapman) Hickman. His ancestors were from Wales and England and settled in Illinois in 1832. His father and uncles were veterans of the Civil War.

Farming engaged Mr. Hickman's attention after the completion of his education, which was obtained at Shurtleff college and Blackburn University.

He removed to Auburndale January 9, 1920, and four years later became connected with A. E. Strong, who is a real estate and insurance broker. At this time he is operating independently.

Mr. Hickman was instrumental in organizing the first city government and in framing its charter. He was Mayor for one term. He is President of the Rotary Club and is acting Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

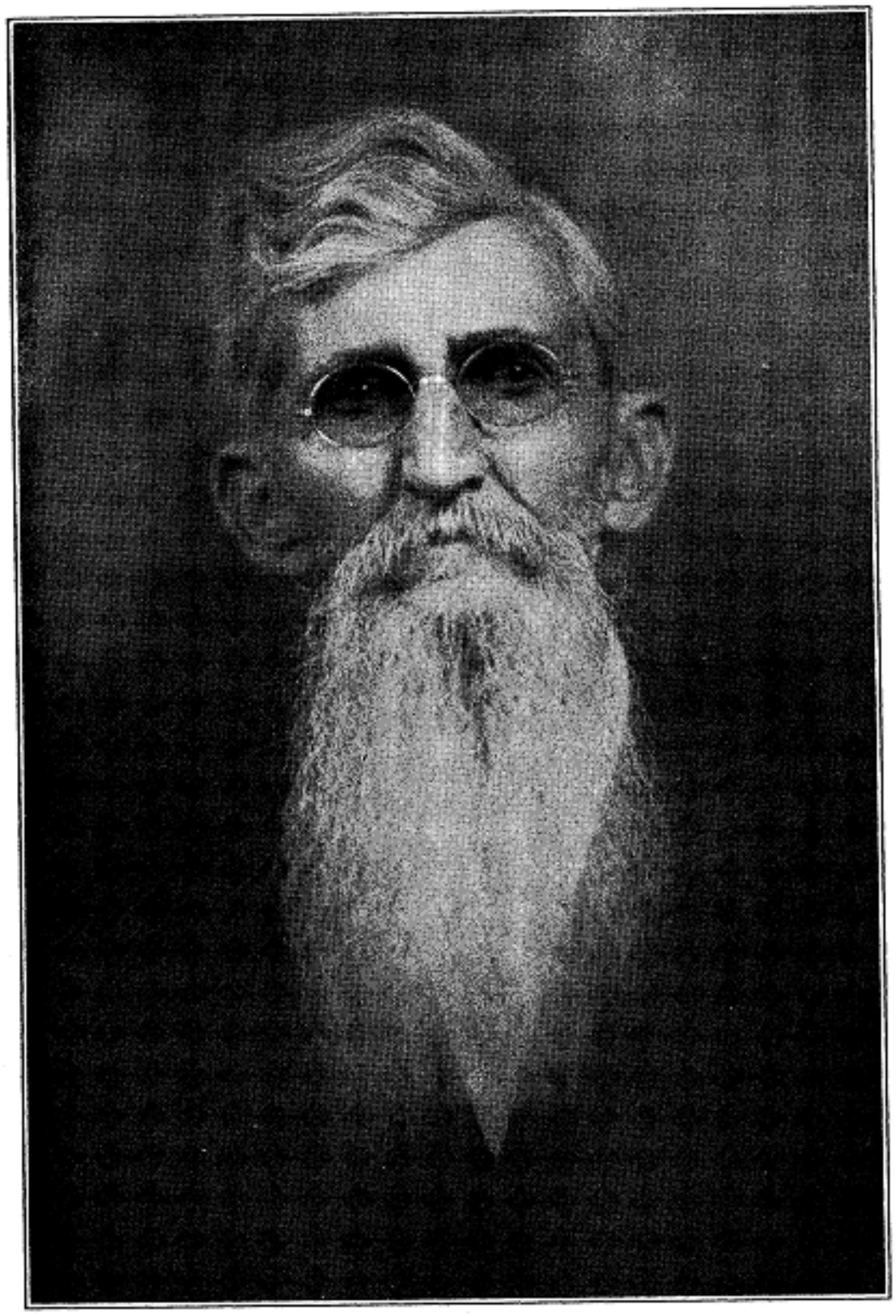
Mr. Hickman and Adeline Robertson were married at Brighton, Illinois, October 7, 1896.

J. T. HODGES

J. T. HODGES was born in Johnson City, Tennessee, October 9, 1877, the son of Wilbur and Ellen (Taylor) Hodges; his father was a veteran of the War Between the States, and fought valiantly for the South. Mr. Hodges secured his higher education at Milliken College, where he specialized in mechanical engineering. Upon graduating, he formed a connection with the C. C. C. railroad, which later came to be known as the Clinchfield.

When twenty years of age, he became convinced that greater opportunities awaited him in Florida, and located at High Springs, entering the Plant System, which is now the Atlantic Coast Line. He held various positions with this company, spending some time as train route examiner. Except for an interlude of three years, during which he was with the S. & H. line (later absorbed by the Seaboard), he has been with the Coast Line ever since, and has lived in Lakeland many years. In December, 1922, he was promoted from engineer to road foreman of engines for the Ridge and Tampa districts, having the same authority over engineers and firemen as, in the transportation department, a trainmaster has over trainmen.

Mr. Hodges has been chief engineer for this district for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. That his ability is well-known and appreciated by this organization is shown by the fact that he held this position for twelve years.



B. F. Holland

Mr. Hodges was the first mayor-commissioner of Lakeland, serving the city for one year. He is a member of the Lions Club, Masons, Elks, Knights of Pythias and Woodmen, and has held all offices in the local chapters of the two last named lodges. He also belongs to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Air Brake Association, Traveling Engineers' Association and the Southeastern Railroad Club.

He was married in Alachua County, Florida, to Edna O'Steen. They have one daughter, Billy, who is a student at the Lakeland High School.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOLLAND

In every community there are certain citizens who are utterly devoid of selfish motive; who strive unceasingly to better the moral and civic tone of their town, in many instances neglecting their own businesses to assist in accomplishing these things. Such a man was Benjamin Franklin Holland, for forty-four years a resident of Bartow.

He was born in Carroll County, Georgia, in 1846, and attended the schools in that State, graduating from Bowden College. The son of Lindsey Holland, he was descended from an old and aristocratic Southern family, and although only a boy, was accepted for service in the Confederate army during the last two years of the Civil War. Near the close of the conflict he was wounded in the battle of Powder Springs near Kennesaw mountain.

Prior to coming to Bartow in 1881, Mr. Holland taught school several years, and upon his arrival in Bartow he worked in the general store of Capt. David Hughes. Later he established the first abstract company in Polk County, the business being known as "B. F. Holland, Abstractor." This concern was later sold and organized as a corporation under the name of the Polk County Abstract Company. He was also interested in orange groves and general farming, being an early organizer in the local branch of the Citrus Exchange.

Mr. Holland was chairman of the local school board for a period of 20 years; he was county commissioner and county treasurer, and upon his resignation from the latter post was given a vote of thanks by the Board of Commissioners for loyal and efficient service. He was one of the leading members of the Methodist church and was a steward and trustee.

B. F. Holland and Fanny V. Spessard were married in West Virginia. Three children were born to this union: Spessard L., for eight years county judge; Frank, of Lake Wales, county agent, and Virginia, wife of Roy Gallemore.

FRANK L. HOLLAND

FRANK L. HOLLAND, County Agricultural Agent, was born on October 7, 1895, the son of Benjamin Franklin and Fanny Spessard Holland, early residents of Polk County.

He was educated at Summerlin Institute, and the University of Florida, receiving the degree of B.S. in agriculture in 1917. Mr. Holland enlisted the day after war was declared, as a member of the Second Florida Infantry, and spent two and one-half years in the service, five months of which he was in command of his own company.

Upon his return from France, he became identified with Carson Brothers, of Frostproof, later forming a connection with the Frostproof State Bank, where he remained one year. Subsequently, he became superintendent and horticulturist for Mammoth Groves at Lake Wales.

Mr. Holland, who is recognized as an expert in his line, engaged in business for himself as a consulting horticulturist, and in 1926 was made agricultural agent of the county, which position he has admirably filled.

He is a member of the American Legion, Kiwanis Club, and the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Mr. Holland and Dorothy Ann Burright were married in Bartow, and they have one daughter, Dorothy Ann.

SPESSARD L. HOLLAND

A keen legal mind, combined with the practice of highest ideals, uniformity of fair treatment and clear-sightedness, has made Spessard Holland, while a young man, one of the outstanding figures in the State. In 1920 he was elected Judge of Polk County, and four years later was again chosen for this honor. It is admitted by all that had he wanted the office a third time, it would have been his, but he announced before the campaign that it was his wish that he be allowed to resume his practice, and therefore in January of the coming year he will devote his entire time to his law practice.

Judge Holland was born in Bartow, July 10, 1892, the son of Benjamin F. and Fanny V. Holland, and in 1909 graduated from Summerlin Institute in that city. Three years later he received his Ph.B. degree from Emory University, and in 1916 graduated from the University of Florida in law.

He was principal of the High School of Warrenton, Georgia, for two years, and was instructor of Mathematics at Emory Summer School. While a student at the State University he taught Latin and mathematics.

Upon his graduation at Florida, he started the practice of his profession in his home city with Mr. R. B. Huffaker; the following year, however, his career was interrupted by the World War, and he immediately enlisted, holding the rank of second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery; was promoted to first lieutenant and later to captain. Later, he was transferred to the aviation corps, and saw active service for ten months, flying on four battlefronts. At the close of the war he was decorated for bravery, receiving the Distinguished Service Cross.

He returned to Bartow in 1919, and was appointed prosecuting attorney for the county, the following year being elected county judge. He is a member of the Masonic order, and is a faithful member of the Methodist church, being a teacher of the Men's Down-Town Class in the Sunday School. He is a member and ex-president of the local Kiwanis Club, and ex-lieutenant governor of the Florida district. He also has been president of the Bartow Chamber of Commerce.

He was married in Lakeland, February 8, 1919, to Mary Groover, youngest daughter of Dr. W. R. Groover and Mrs. Mollie Knowles Groover, and they have three children: Spessard Lindsay, Jr., Mary Groover, and William Benjamin.

JAMES N. HOOKER

JAMES N. HOOKER, pioneer citizen of Polk County, who for fifty years has taken a leading part in the county's development, was born in Hillsborough County in 1848, the son of William B. and Mary Hooker. His parents were Georgians, and his father, who was engaged in farming on a large scale, had at one time more cattle than any man in Florida, having large herds in all parts of the State.

Mr. Hooker received his education in the schools of Hillsborough County, and for two and one-half years attended Emory college. For eight years he clerked in a store in Tampa, and in 1878 went to Fort Meade, where he owned and conducted a general store for six years. In 1884 he became a resident of Bartow, where he operated a store, still retaining his Fort Meade place of business. He later engaged in the real estate business, later becoming interested in phosphate, and yet owns valuable phosphate lands.

Mr. Hooker has a fine orange grove at Alturas, and for many years has been a leading orange grower of the county.

For years Mr. Hooker has been prominent politically in Polk County. He served the county as commissioner for many years, having been a member of the Board when the second court house was built in Bartow. He was elected to the State Senate in Bartow in 1896, serving for two years, and for a number of years was a member of the City Council of Bartow, and chairman of the Board.

Mr. Hooker is ex-president and one of the organizers of the State Bank of Bartow, and during his tenure in office was active head of the bank. He is now director and vice-president of the Polk County National Bank. The State Bank was organized by the directors of the Polk County National Bank in order to keep outside financial interests from establishing another bank in the town.

Mr. Hooker has been a faithful member of the Methodist church for forty years. He was married at Bartow to Rosa Carpenter. Five children were born to this union: Maude (Mrs. J. H. Steel, Tampa), Gladys (Mrs. W. F. Walker), James N., Meroba (Mrs. L. O. Boynton), the three latter residents of Bartow, and Myra (deceased).

IRA CLARKE HOPPER

IRA C. HOPPER, prominent in professional and civic circles of Lakeland, was born at Caddo Gap, Arkansas, August 4, 1891, the son of John F. and Martha (Burke) Hopper. He received his A. B. and LL.B. degrees from the University of Arkansas, and took post-graduate work at the University of Chicago.

Upon the completion of his education, he engaged in the practice of his profession at Little Rock. He served from 1921 until 1925 as Secretary of State of Arkansas, thereby gaining the distinction of being the youngest man ever to hold that position. That he was recognized as the logical man for the place is shown by the fact that in the Democratic primary he carried every county in the State.

Mr. and Mrs. Hopper moved to Lakeland in 1925, since which time they have been active in every good work. Mr. Hopper does a general law practice, and has been quite successful. He is a member of the American, Florida, Polk County and Lakeland Bar Associations; president of the Lakeland Kiwanis Club; president of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of the Salvation

Army advisory board; past commander of Lakeland Post No. 4, American Legion, and a member of the board of directors of the Rose Keller Branch of the Florida Children's Home Society. He spent fourteen months with the American Expeditionary forces in France as battery commander in the 20th Field Artillery, 5th Division, taking part in several major engagements and going into Germany with the Army of Occupation, and now holds the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Officers' Reserve Corps. Fraternally, he is a Mason, a Shriner and an Elk.

He was married in Illinois October 29, 1921, to Nettie Suzanne Jobe, and they have one child, an adopted daughter, Dorothy Sue.

E. C. HOSFORD

E. C. HOSFORD, of Lakeland, is one of the leading architects of the State, having designed many handsome structures in this section and elsewhere to bear out this statement.

A native of Cochran, Georgia, he is the son of C. C. and Hettie Belle Hosford, and was born April 24, 1883. He attended Gordon Military School at Barnesville, Georgia, and graduated at the Georgia School of Technology. He is a representative of an old and distinguished family, tracing his ancestry to pre-Revolutionary days.

Mr. Hosford began the practice of his profession at Eastman, Georgia, among the important jobs handled there being the court house in that town and at Hamilton.

He operated in Florida for several years prior to his removal to Lakeland. On his frequent visits to the State, he became much enamored of this section, and settled in Lakeland in July, 1920.

Mr. Hosford drew the plans for the court house in Bartow, doing this work in 1910. He has designed many important edifices, including numbers of schools, banks, court houses, and business houses, among the latter being the Hartzell, Oates-Corley, Smith-Hardin and Success Furniture Company's buildings in Lakeland. Among the handsome Lakeland homes he designed are those of W. S. Rogers, H. E. Pritchett, Angelo Raymondo and Mrs. George Nelson.

Mr. Hosford is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, is a Mason, Elk and a Shriner.

He and Alice M. Baker were married in Georgia and they have one daughter, Mildred.

R. B. HUFFAKER

His record as an educator, lawyer, civic and church worker being one of which any citizen might well be proud, R. B. Huffaker has, during his 23 years' residence in Bartow, made an enviable position for himself in his community and the county at large. He was born at Henry's Cross Roads, Tennessee, May 28, 1878, son of Abner and Mary Huffaker. He attended the public schools of Tennessee, receiving his higher education at Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville. After a number of years spent in teaching he graduated in law from the University of Florida.

Mr. Huffaker's teaching career included five years spent in teaching in the schools of Tennessee and Georgia and five years as principal of Summerlin Insti-

tute, Bartow. He came to Bartow in 1905, and in 1911 opened law offices, since which time he has enjoyed a lucrative practice, Mr. Huffaker being senior member of the firm of Huffaker and Edwards.

Since taking up the practice of law Mr. Huffaker has served as Prosecuting attorney of the County Court of Polk County for seven years; is at present attorney for the Board of Public Instruction for Polk County and has served Bartow as mayor-commissioner for three and a half years. He is a director of the State Bank of Bartow.

Mr. Huffaker is a member of the American and State Bar Associations, is a Mason and Shriner and a member of the Methodist church. He was married in Brownwood, Georgia, August 8, 1904, to Theresa Shackelford. They have four children: Mary, Theresa, Elizabeth and Robert B., Jr.

T. L. HUGHES

T. L. HUGHES, who has lived in Bartow since March 1, 1882, has the distinction of being the oldest citizen, in length of residence, in his community. He was born in the northwestern part of Georgia, May 8, 1857, the son of Henry and Sarah Hughes, and his education was secured in the schools of his native State.

Mr. Hughes can tell many interesting facts regarding the early days of this section. He has witnessed the building of every house in Bartow and Lakeland, and was one of the first commissioners of the county, serving from 1884 until 1892.

During the twenty-five years following his arrival in Bartow he conducted a mercantile business, which was known as the T. L. Hughes Company. He is best known to the present residents of Polk County as a builder of roads, the firm being known as Stidham & Hughes. Among the noteworthy pieces of work done by this company may be named the majority of streets in Lake Wales, Lakeland, Wauchula, Tavares, Arcadia, and Mount Dora, the roads from Bartow to Winter Haven and from Bartow to Lakeland, and a great number in Hillsborough county.

Mr. Hughes and Julia Wilson were married in Bartow April 23, 1897. They have two children, Augustus M. and Katherine, (Mrs. T. C. Banks).

ULRIC HUGUENIN

ULRIC HUGUENIN was born at Gadsden, South Carolina, August 9, 1880. He is a son of Captain Abram and Leonora C. (Guérard) Huguenin, the former an attorney at law. His mother is a descendant of Jacques Guérard, Lord of Normandy, who in 1679 brought over a colony of French Huguenots and was granted a tract of 4,000 acres of land in South Carolina. The Huguenin family owns 800 acres in Beaufort county, which was deeded them in 1735.

Ulric Huguenin was educated in the public schools of Charleston and at Clemson college, and entered the railroad service under the guidance of his grand uncle, Colonel C. S. Gadsden, vice-president of the Atlantic Coast Line. He came to Lakeland to work with Mr. J. F. Council, of Charleston, S. C., former division superintendent of the company, and has been a popular and well-known conductor for the past seventeen years.

Mr. Huguenin attends the Episcopal church, and fraternally is identified with the Masonic order and the Shrine, and Knight Templar Commandery.

He was married at McClellansville, South Carolina, June 8, 1909, to Mary Louise Doar. They have one daughter, Mary Louise.

WILLIS SAMUEL IRVIN

W. S. IRVIN, oldest dentist in years of practice in Lakeland, was born in Neosho, Missouri, October 17, 1875. His parents, John A. and Sarah (Farr) Irvin, were born in Missouri, their ancestors being early settlers of Virginia.

Coming to Auburndale in 1884 with his parents, Dr. Irvin attended the public schools of the county, and in 1900 graduated from the Southern Dental College, of Atlanta, with the degree of D.D.S. In the year of his graduation he established his office in Lakeland, since which time he has built up a large and lucrative practice. Dr. Irvin took special post-graduate work in surgery in Chicago in 1920, since which time he has specialized in dental surgery.

Dr. Irvin served for six years as a member of the City Council of Lakeland, under the old form of government; he is a member of the State and District Dental Society, is an ex-Rotarian, and is prominently identified with the Order of Elks, having served Lakeland Lodge No. 1291 as Exalted Ruler and is also Past District Deputy. Dr. Irvin has always been helpful in matters of civic import, and in all things that make for good citizenship.

Dr. Irvin was married in May, 1901, to Jessie E. Bailey, of Auburndale. They have one daughter, Maxine, who is specializing in music at Ward Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn.

DICKSON F. JACKSON

D. F. JACKSON was born in Cartersville, Georgia, January 31, 1901, the son of George M. and Florence A. (Dickerson) Jackson. He is a descendant of Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island, and his ancestry were Scotch-Irish. His paternal grandfather was a shipbuilder of Charleston, while his mother's father was a prominent physician, giving his services to the cause of the South during the Civil War.

Upon the completion of his education, which was acquired at the Georgia School of Technology, Mr. Jackson spent one year in Canada; the year following he was with the Southern Cotton Oil Company, and in 1920 he became connected with the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, traveling all Southern States as an inspector. In 1925 he came to Lakeland to assume charge of the local Coca-Cola bottling works, and under his management the business has increased one-third. The output of this concern is 8,000 bottles daily, and is distributed to Auburndale, Mulberry, Polk City and Lakeland.

Mr. Jackson is a Rotarian, a Mason and attends the Presbyterian church. He was married December 24, 1924, to Loraine L. Fariss, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and they have two children, Samuel Fariss and George Dickson.

CHARLES W. JACOBS

Having seen Lakeland grow and develop and having been a factor in its progress for the past 27 years, Charles W. Jacobs has earned well the title of one of the city's foremost citizens who has done the community a great service in assisting in the building of its back country.

Mr. Jacobs' home State is Maryland, but since 1901 he has been spending practically six months of each year in Lakeland, during which time he has been



B. C. James

engaged in the fruit brokerage business. Until the last year or two he has devoted his attention mainly to the buying of strawberries, transacting a large volume of business each year, paying the growers spot cash for their product on the platform. In this way he has been the means of distributing thousands of dollars annually to the growers, relieving them of all risk in the sale and distribution of their fruit. He now buys and ships citrus fruits exclusively, operating under the firm name of the Polk County Fruit Company. During the summer months he extends his operations to the States of Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina, where he each season handles a large amount of fruit.

Besides his attractive home on the shores of Lake Hollingsworth, Mr. Jacobs owns other valuable property including a large orange grove on Crystal Lake.

Mr. Jacobs is an Elk and a Knight of Pythias. He was married to Sarah V. Heather of Maryland.

S. P. JAMES

That farming in Polk County may be made to pay, and pay well, has been clearly demonstrated by S. P. James, one of the largest, if not the largest, truck growers in Polk County.

Mr. James came to Bartow twenty-five years ago, purchased twelve acres of land about one mile north of the court house, half of this small tract being raw land. The following spring it was recorded he had shipped his crops early and received good prices, making such a success that his operations were mentioned in some of the leading papers of the State. He has gradually expanded his farming and now owns 250 acres, of which 125 is piped with Skinner irrigation. His land lies on the Bartow and Winter Haven road just out of the city limits of Bartow, and he has recently completed one of the finest homes in the county on this property. Cabbage has been his chief crop, but he also grows lettuce, pepper, potatoes, tomatoes and other vegetables.

Mr. James has given much study to proper grading and packing of all vegetables, which has helped him in the successful marketing of all crops in the principal markets over a wide territory. In order to facilitate the proper loading and packing of his produce he has a side-track and packing house adjoining his farm from which as high as four cars per day of his produce is loaded. He has been much interested in the agricultural development of the State and has bought and sold considerable real estate. He is a director of the Polk County National Bank.

The subject of this sketch was born in Gibson, Tennessee, in 1877, the son of Dr. John P. and Sophronia James. He was educated in the schools of his native state, and spent his early manhood in farming at Gibson.

Shortly before moving to Bartow, Mr. James and Miss Edna Blackburn were married in Tennessee. They have two children: Martha, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, who is a teacher in the Bartow High School, and a son, Jack, who has just completed High School.

BEN. W. JOHNSON

B. W. Johnson, in point of service the oldest real estate and insurance man in Fort Meade, was born January 16, 1882, in Micanopy, the son of L. H. and Mary Elizabeth Johnson. His father, a native of South Carolina, removed his

family to Fort Meade May 22, 1897, and was a merchant of that city for many years, doing business under the firm name of B. W. Johnson & Co.

Mr. Johnson received his education in the public schools of Micanopy and Fort Meade, and completed it with a course at the Tampa Business college. He entered his father's business, which he conducted for several years after his father's death in 1905; later being with the Palmetto Phosphate Company at Tiger Bay, as paymaster, for two and a half years, and with the Compagnie Generale des Phosphates de la Floride, a French Company under the management in the United States, of P. Jumeau, until the outbreak of the World War.

In 1915, he established a real estate and insurance business. He represents the Ætna, Hartford and other companies, handling all kinds of insurance. In addition, he is agent for the Florida Dynamite Company, selling explosives for agricultural purposes.

Mr. Johnson is a member of the Board of Governors of the Exchange Club, and fraternally is affiliated with the Woodmen of the World.

He was married in Bartow August 23, 1905, to Miss Leila Dudley. They have two children, Louise D. and Carolyn S., both of whom were born in Fort Meade.

Coined by him a few years ago, his business slogan, "TALK IT OVER WITH BEN JOHNSON", has become well known over his part of the section, many sending mail to him addressed that way.

JAMES A. JOHNSON

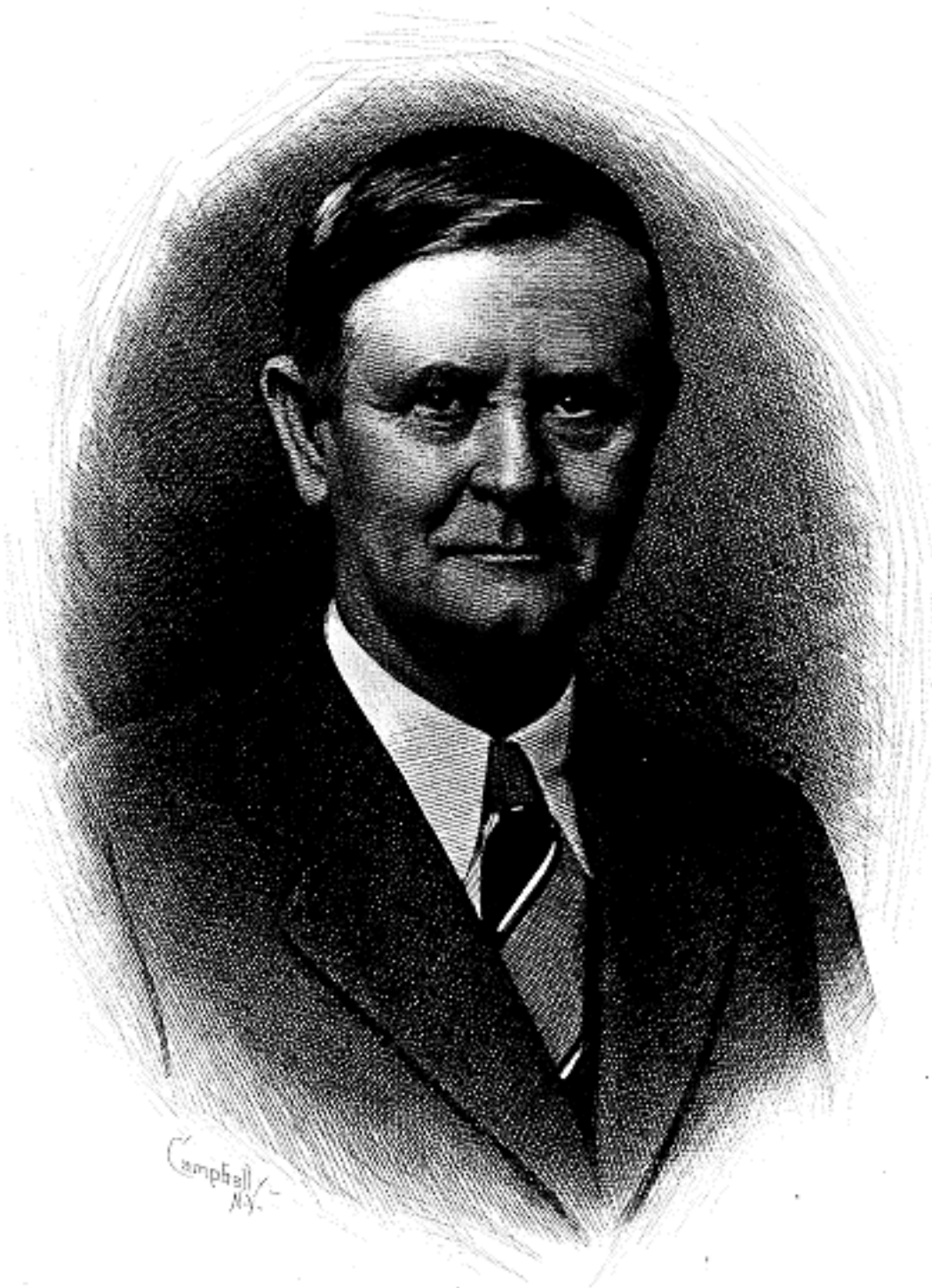
J. A. (Jim) Johnson, recently elected sheriff of Polk County, is a native of Bartow, born October 2, 1875, the son of William H. and Sarah A. Johnson. The former came to this section in the early fifties from Tatnall County, Georgia, and was prominent in public affairs, holding for fifteen years the office of clerk of the Circuit Court.

Jim Johnson was educated in the public schools of Bartow, attended the South Florida Military Institute, which at that time was located in his native city. His training for public office has been particularly good, as he assisted his father in the County Clerk's office until 1912, when he himself, was elected to hold that office and to be recorder of deeds. He also served on the board of county commissioners, and was auditor for the county.

In addition to his other official duties, Mr. Johnson was, from 1914 until 1921, a deputy sheriff, and during the war served as a member of the Bartow draft board.

Any dealings Mr. Johnson has had with the people in his official capacity and as a business man have been marked by honesty, fairness and impartiality. His unfailing courtesy and genial manner, coupled with his close attention to any matter of public business, has enabled him to make an enviable record for himself, and that these virtues are appreciated by the people of the county is shown by the large plurality he received in the election held June 5th.

He has valuable citrus holdings, and has also been engaged in the real estate business. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Knights of Pythias, Elks and Woodmen of the World.



Werner, G. Jones

LUTHER C. JOHNSON

L. C. JOHNSON, member of an old and prominent Polk County family, was born nine miles west of Bartow, March 3, 1880, son of William H. and Sarah (Pollard) Johnson. The former, with his father, William Hansford Johnson, came to this county before 1860.

The subject of this sketch attended the schools of Bartow and received his law training in the offices of Judge H. K. Olliphant. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, he immediately enlisted and served one year as a corporal.

Mr. Johnson practiced alone from 1901 until 1926, when he became a partner of Edward B. Bosarge and W. P. Allen, the firm now being known as Johnson, Bosarge and Allen.

Mr. Johnson served as prosecuting attorney for the county from 1908 until 1913. He is a member of the American, State and County Bar Associations.

He belongs to the Masonic order and for many years has been a devout member of the Methodist church.

HENRY L. JOLLAY

HENRY L. JOLLAY, successful lawyer of Winter Haven, was born near Franklin, North Carolina, February 15, 1887, the son of John G. and Ruah (Holbrook) Jollay. He is of Scotch-Irish descent, and his paternal grandfather saw service during the Civil War as an officer in the Union Army.

Mr. Jolly received his preparatory education in the schools of North Carolina, and in 1914 graduated from the Cleveland (Ohio) Law School with an LL. B. degree. From the time of the completion of his course until 1925, he practiced his profession in the Ohio city.

In 1926, he established offices in Winter Haven, and during his short residence in this section has made a remarkable record. In addition to having as clients a large number of important individuals and corporations, he is attorney for the towns of Winter Haven and Lake Alfred.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, State Bar Association, and is secretary and treasurer of the county and city associations.

Mr. Jollay and Florence Burnap were married in Cleveland, Ohio, May 25, 1914. They have two daughters, Jean and Betty.

WERNER G. JONES

WERNER G. JONES, Polk County's efficient and courteous tax assessor, who has held the office for eight years and who was re-elected in the June primary of 1928 by a handsome majority, has made a record of which he has every reason to be proud. This office is of first importance to the citizens of the county, and requires ability and tact to conduct. That Mr. Jones has fully measured up to the exacting requirements of the position is evidenced by the endorsement he received at the polls, his record of efficient and careful attention to all matters pertaining to his office having won for him the merited confidence of his constituents.

Mr. Jones' political career extends back to 1915, when he was elected county treasurer. He served in this capacity two years, becoming deputy tax assessor in 1917, and his record of public service in the positions mentioned was such that he was elected to the important office he now holds in 1920.

For several years prior to being chosen by the people to take his prominent part in the affairs of the county, Mr. Jones was engaged in merchandising at Auburndale. In 1912 he suffered the loss of his store and stock by fire. He rebuilt and re-stocked his store, only to be visited a year later by a repetition of the disaster, another fire wiping out the accumulations of his years of industry. Notwithstanding these reverses, sufficient to crush the spirit of the average man, Mr. Jones faced the situation with courage and optimism, and is now regarded as one of the county's most substantial and successful men.

Werner G. Jones was born in Giles County, Tennessee, April 24, 1874, the son of J. P. and Laura (Gilbert) Jones, who also were natives of Tennessee. He was educated in the schools of Tennessee and Alabama. At the age of 18 he came to Florida, engaging in such work as offered until able to go into business on his own account, and in 1905 established at Auburndale the mercantile business mention of which has been made. In all his relations, official and business, he has so deported himself as to hold the confidence and esteem of his fellow-men, and he counts his friends in large numbers in all parts of the county.

Mr. Jones was married May 4, 1898, at Auburndale to Isa V. Irvin. They have five children, Bernice, Eugene, Gladys, Genevieve and Myrtle. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, is a Mason and a Knight Templar.

CARROLL D. JUDSON

CARROLL D. JUDSON, eminent lawyer and land title specialist, who lives in Lakeland, was born in Medina County, Ohio, April 11, 1867, the son of Horace and Florence (Rouse) Judson. His paternal ancestors, who were English, settled in Connecticut in the 17th century; a branch of the family migrated to Canada in 1765, and removed to Ohio early in the 19th century. On his maternal side he is of Scotch-Irish descent, his mother's family living in New York before the days of the Revolution. Mr. Judson received his education in the public schools of Ohio and Kansas, and graduated in 1893 from the National University of Law, Washington, D. C., with the degree of LL.D., and took his Master's degree in the following year.

Mr. Judson's residence in Florida dates from 1901, when he located at Jacksonville, where for several years he was identified with an Abstract and Title Company. Later he practiced law, and in January, 1921, moved to Lakeland to become title and trust officer of the Polk County Trust Company. A year and a half later he resigned, and in 1925 became associated with Ira C. Hopper in the practice of law. The following year they were joined by Ed R. Bentley, and upon the retirement of Mr. Hopper last year, the firm name became Judson & Bentley.

Mr. Judson has given much of his time and talents to the simplification of the title system, and is known throughout the State as the Dean of the abstract fraternity. He holds a life membership in the Florida Title Association, which he helped to organize in 1907, and in the same year was active in the establishment of the American Association of Title Men. Through the influence of these organizations, all abstracts produced in this State meet the severest tests as to form, completeness and reliability. Mr. Judson has also been prominent in introducing title insurance into Florida.

He married A. Belle Smith at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1888. They have one son, Virgil Ray, of Bartow, who served with distinction in the navy during the World War. Mr. Judson was quite active in loan drives, and was a member of the draft board in Jacksonville.

Mr. Judson is a member of the Episcopal church, Exchange Club and Order of Elks.

JOHN MILLEDGE KEEN

JOHN M. KEEN, representative of one of the oldest families of Polk County, was born September 2, 1867, about 2½ miles southwest of the present site of Lakeland, and which is now within the corporate limits of the city. He is the son of Jesse and Elizabeth E. Keen, who came to Polk County in 1866. Much of the history of Lakeland and environs is woven about the Keen family, and Mr. Keen's mother, who is now in her 83rd year, still lives near Lakeland, enjoying excellent health and a keen mind, her age sitting lightly upon her shoulders. She has never been out of the State, thoroughly satisfied with Florida and not caring to even visit any other part of the country.

After attending the schools of Polk County, Mr. Keen taught in the schools for seven years. He was in the grocery business for four years, selling his business to E. G. Tweedell, after which he engaged in stock-raising and farming on a large scale.

Mr. Keen has been much in the public life of Lakeland and Polk County, having ably served the city as councilman for six years, and was a member of the Board of County Commissioners for seven years. He served in the State Legislature for four years, of which body he was a prominent and influential member.

Mr. Keen has seen not only Lakeland but the entire county merge from a wilderness, with no roads, no conveniences, no schools except one room log structures, and in comparing the county as it then was with the Imperial Polk of today, he can have the satisfaction of knowing that in the development work that has marked the years that have gone, he has had his share, and has ever filled a high place in the regard and esteem of the citizenship of the entire county.

Mr. Keen was first married on April 5, 1891, to Eugenia Platt, deceased. Three children were born to this union, Albert Y. and Lottie E., both deceased, and Myrtle D. He married Flora F. Trimble, September 16, 1905, and they have one daughter, Elizabeth.

J. W. KEEN

J. W. KEEN, life-long resident of the county, was born in Fort Meade, May 26, 1874, the son of Arthur and Nancy (Hancock) Keen. His father, a merchant, came to this section from Lake City, and for some time was in the employ of James Hooker, later taking up a homestead at Fort Meade.

Mr. Keen was reared on his father's farm, and attended the local schools. Upon reaching young manhood, he moved to Tiger Bay, but came back to Fort Meade later where for twenty years he conducted a mercantile business. During this time he was also engaged in setting out orange groves in the Frostproof district, and while his permanent home is at Fort Meade he lives in Frostproof during the shipping season.

In 1926, Mr. Keen organized the Highlands Packing Company, of which concern he is president and manager. He owns and controls about 150 acres of bearing trees, and last year the company shipped 200 carloads of fruit. Mr. Keen was also organizer of the Frostproof Packing Company.

He was a member of the County School Board six years, serving as chairman one term, and is an ex-member of the Fort Meade Board.

He was married near Fort Meade to Minnie L. Stephens, representative of an old Polk County family. They have three children: Arthur A., Frostproof; Stephen W., of Lake Worth, and Evelyn (Mrs. Wade E. Saunders), of Fort Meade.

CHARLES E. KENSINGER

CHARLES E. KENSINGER, lawyer and educator, was born in Hawkins County, Tennessee, October 22, 1875, the son of James V. and Anne (Lyons) Kensinger. His great grandfather was a pioneer settler of Tennessee. He attended Emory and Henry College, received his A. B. degree from Southern College, M.A. degree from Cumberland University, and graduated in law from Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee.

Mr. Kensinger has spent the greater part of his life in bettering educational facilities. He taught at Southern College and for a number of years was supervising principal of the Winter Haven Schools. He may truthfully be called a pioneer in school methods as it was during his regime that Home Economics, Kindergarten and Dramatic Art were introduced. He established the Kensinger Debating Club at the Lakeland High School, and gives a medal each year to the student making the best record in this line.

Mr. Kensinger is a Mason, Shriner, K. P. and was formerly Worthy Patron of the Order of Eastern Star. He is a member of the Methodist church.

In 1903 he married Nannie Iola Raulerson. They have one daughter, Elva Reta.

CARL ALEXANDER KERN

C. A. KERN, of the Southern Office Equipment Co., Lakeland, is a native Floridian, born at Apopka, October 18, 1894. He is the son of Louise Jane Smith and stepson of Dr. S. F. Smith. Mr. Kern removed with his parents to Lakeland in 1907, and attended the schools, including business college of that city. His higher education was received at the Georgia School of Technology.

Mr. Kern represented the L. C. Smith Typewriter Company in this section prior to opening an Office Supply Company. He later accepted the post of secretary of the Clearwater Board of Trade and remained there one year. For a period of six years he was salesman for the Burroughs Adding Machine Company at Jacksonville. Several years ago he launched the splendid business of the Southern Office Equipment Co., which specializes in office furniture of all kinds, typewriters and in fact everything to be found in a modern business office, and in this undertaking he has been quite successful.

Mr. Kern is a Rotarian, Scottish Rite Mason and is vice-president of the Lakeland Shrine Club. He attends the Episcopal church.

Carl Kern and Laura Agnes Southard were married November 30, 1916, at Lakeland.

A. B. KIBLER

A. B. KIBLER is a North Carolinian by birth, born at LaGrange, April 24, 1874. His parents were John M. and Alice Kibler.

For the past 21 years Mr. Kibler and his twin brother, D. B. Kibler, have been associated in business, their operations being on a large scale, embracing the phosphate and citrus industries, in which they have been eminently successful. For many years Mr. Kibler was a leading citizen of Dunnellon, and from that point he conducted his phosphate operations and other activities until 1912, when he became a citizen of Lakeland.

Mr. Kibler and his brother gave to Lakeland its first large, modern hotel, in the Hotel Kibler, later known as the Thelma, which they conducted for five years until sold to its present owners in 1920.

Mr. Kibler, aside from his large interests in Marion County, owns a number of fine orange groves in Polk County, and has other valuable property in Lakeland.

He was married June 16, 1903, at Valdosta, Georgia, to Mattie Grace Johnson. He has six children: A. B., Jr., S. B., John M., Louise, Helen and Virginia.

DAVID B. KIBLER

DAVID B. KIBLER, one of Florida's leading phosphate operators for many years, was born in LaGrange, North Carolina, the son of John M. and Alice Kibler.

Mr. Kibler began a very active business career while yet a young man, forming a connection with the Plant System railroad, now the Atlantic Coast Line, and it was while in the employ of this company that he came to Florida, locating in the State 32 years ago. Three counties have claimed him as a citizen—Citrus, Marion and Polk. In 1907, Mr. Kibler engaged in the phosphate business on a large scale, in which business he and his brother, A. B. Kibler, have since been associated, the company of A. B. and D. B. Kibler, Inc., being capitalized at $500,000.00.

Mr. Kibler, while retaining large phosphate interests, has retired from active participation in the conduct of the business, and for a number of years has lived in Lakeland, where he enjoys life in his handsome home, which graces the east shore of Lake Hunter.

Because of his interest in his adopted city, and because of his desire to serve the community, he accepted the position of City Manager in May, 1927, which he most ably filled until 1928, resigning on account of ill health. Prior to his acceptance of this position he was city commissioner for three months, resigning to become city manager.

Mr. Kibler and his brother, A. B. Kibler, built the Thelma Hotel in 1915, and it was conducted for five years under their ownership, being sold in 1920 to H. B. Carter. It was known during that time as the Hotel Kibler.

Mr. Kibler is an ex-member of the Rotary Club, and fraternally is affiliated with the Masons. He was married in South Carolina to Lilly J. Clark. They have three children: D. B., Jr., Lucile (Mrs. Herman Watson), Clara (Mrs. S. P. Davis, of Cleveland, Ohio).

W. L. KING

W. L. KING, well-known insurance man of Lakeland, was born in Telfair county, Georgia, November 25, 1885, the son of William E. and Estelle (Dopson) King. His father was a North Carolinian by birth, his mother a Georgian.

After graduating from the South Georgia college, Mr. King engaged in railroad work, being first connected with the Atlantic Coast Line Railway at Wilmington, North Carolina, later in Jacksonville, coming to Lakeland in 1912 as Chief Clerk to Superintendent J. F. Council.

He remained with the railroad until 1919, when he established what is now one of the leading insurance concerns of South Florida—the King Insurance Company—and also founded the King Bond and Mortgage Company, both of which concerns have enjoyed a splendid business. He is also secretary of the Florida Machinery and Supply Company.

Mr. King is thoroughly interested in all matters of a civic nature, and has done much constructive work for his home city. He is a member of the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, both Country Clubs, is a Mason, Shriner, Knights Templar and is Past Exalted Ruler of the Lakeland Lodge of Elks.

He was married in Atlanta, July 26, 1917, to Louise Hare, of Tuskegee, Ala. They have one daughter, Betty.

MRS. BERTHA F. KNIGHT

MRS. BERTHA F. KNIGHT, efficient postmaster of Bartow, is a native of the county, having been born at Homeland. Her father, Augustus M. Wilson, came to Florida when quite young, in the year 1852. He was a cattle man, farmer and grower of citrus fruits, and was actively identified with the early development of this section.

He was married to Caledonia Crum, daughter of J. B. Crum, more familiarly known as "Uncle Jim," in his early manhood, and moved to Manatee county when Mrs. Knight was an infant. She was educated in the schools there and Polk county.

She was married to Frank J. Knight of DeSoto county. Three children were born to this union, E. W. Knight of Tampa, Mrs. M. E. Skipper of Sebring and Frank J., Jr.

After the death of Mr. Knight in 1920, she entered the business world, and for one year was connected with the Polk County Record as advertising manager, resigning to accept the position as acting Postmaster. In 1924 she was appointed Postmaster by President Coolidge, and is now serving her second term in this capacity.

Mrs. Knight enjoys the highest esteem of her large circle of friends and of the public as a whole. She handles matters pertaining to her official position as postmaster with skill and dispatch, the office being splendidly managed under her able direction.

GEORGE LEE KRAMER

GEORGE LEE KRAMER, whose ability as an architect is widely recognized, was born in Akron, Ohio, August 26, 1882, the son of George Washington and Harriett (Blackman) Kramer.

Mr. Kramer's ancestors were Scotch and English, being pioneer settlers of Ohio and Indiana. His father was an authority of national renown on church architecture, having during his active career of nearly fifty years designed over 4,000 structures, the record for any architect. For forty years he devoted his entire time to church architecture, designing over 2,000 of the finest edifices in



Bertha F. Kugel —

the United States. He also published several works on church architecture, and collaborated with other publications.

George Lee Kramer, after completing his education in the schools of Ohio and New York City, became associated as a partner in the architectural firm of his father, with studios in the Metropolitan Tower, New York City. Having specialized in church architecture, Mr. Kramer, while a member of this firm, assisted in designing 250 church edifices in the United States, including six in Florida, one in England, China, Jamaica, Australia, and several in Canada.

In addition to his architectural career, Mr. Kramer was also connected with the Hanover National Bank of New York City for ten years.

Coming to Florida in 1924, Mr. Kramer chose Winter Haven as a place of residence, buying property and opening architectural offices, being associated in business with Homer G. Gibbs. Among the buildings designed by Mr. Kramer is the Presbyterian church of Winter Haven, one of that city's handsomest edifices.

Mr. Kramer is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Christian church. He was married in 1907 in New York City to Amelia A. Beneke. They have two sons, George W., and Robert L.

J. HARRIS LANCASTER

One of the earliest residents of the county, and a man whose life has been devoted to the interests of his community, is J. Harris Lancaster, of Bartow, who was born in Clinch County, Georgia, November 27, 1871. His parents, David C. and Penelope Lancaster, who were of English descent, removed their family to Polk County in 1873, settling near Fort Meade. D. C. Lancaster was among the first county commissioners, a member of the county school board and a leader in the Baptist church.

J. H. Lancaster was educated in a little log school house near the home of his parents, and later was graduated from Summerlin Institute. He taught school for three years and was assistant postmaster at Bartow for a short time. From 1905 until 1913 he was tax assessor of Polk County, and for three and a half years following this service he was connected with the State Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Lancaster is engaged in the real estate business, has large grove interests and buys and sells fruit.

He is a faithful member of the Baptist church, and fraternally is affiliated with the Elks, K. of P., Woodmen and Moose. Mr. Lancaster was married at Brewster to Florrie V. Pearce, and they have three children, Lamar L., Melba and Lowell H.

CHARLES W. LANGFORD

C. W. LANGFORD, proprietor of the Langford Drug Co. of Fort Meade, was born in that city, May 24, 1881, the son of R. C. and Meddie E. Langford. The latter was a native of Georgia, while the former was from Madison county, this State, coming here in the early days to engage in farming and cattle-raising.

Mr. Langford received his higher education at the School of Pharmacy, Macon, Georgia, and upon his graduation entered the Langford Drug Co., of which firm he has been active head for the past 21 years. In addition to this

business, which under his management has steadily grown and prospered, he has an orange grove and raises strawberries on a considerable scale.

Mr. Langford is the second vice-president of the Florida organization of Exchange clubs, is a Mason and a Shriner and a member of the Presbyterian church. He is an ex-member of the city council, having served one and one-half terms, and is a director of the First State Bank. In 1907 he and his father built the Langford building.

He was married at Fort Meade, October 7, 1908, to Anne Johnson, and they have two children, Richard H. and Mary Elizabeth.

CHARLES LARSEN

CHARLES LARSEN, Superintendent of the Lakeland Light and Water Department, is a native of Nebraska, born at Minden, February 28, 1888. His parents, Henry and Christina Larsen, who were born in Denmark, removed to Fort Pierce, this State, in 1894. Charles Larsen attended the schools of that community, and was later graduated from the University of Florida with the degrees of B. S. and E. E.

Upon the completion of his education, Mr. Larsen held various engineering positions. He was connected with the Atlantic Coast Line and Central of Georgia railroads; the Consolidated Engineering Company at Jacksonville and the East Coast Lumber Company. Prior to his removal to Lakeland to assume charge of the Light and Water Department, he held a similar position with the city of Fort Pierce.

Under Mr. Larsen's management, the Lakeland plant, which is thoroughly modern, has been practically rebuilt. The lighting capacity is given as 9,000 kilowatts and 6,000,000 gallons per day is the capacity of the water department.

Mr. Larsen belongs to the Blue Lodge and Royal Arch Masonic bodies, and is a Knight Templar and Shriner. He is a member of the Florida Engineering Society, also a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and worships at the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

He was married at Starke, Florida, June 26, 1911, to Faye Langford. They have one son, Charles, Jr.

GLENN R. LASSITER

GLENN R. LASSITER was born in Ashboro, North Carolina, March 14, 1896, the son of E. C. and Mada L. Lassiter.

Upon the completion of his education, received in the schools of Greensboro, North Carolina, he engaged in the textile business, being secretary of a company in Anderson, South Carolina. He remained in this connection for twelve years, until September 20, 1925, when he removed to Lakeland.

Mr. Lassiter is manager of the rental department of the Marshall-McLean real estate company, and is an expert on values in his community.

He was a second lieutenant in the air service, balloon division, and spent three months overseas during the World War, making the trip on a special mission for the United States Shipping Board.

Mr. Lassiter is a member of the Masonic order and the Shrine, and attends the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

He was married in 1924, at Elberton, Georgia, to Frances Mattox.

MILO MORTIMER LEE

M. M. LEE, the able and versatile editor of the *Winter Haven Chief,* was born at Hartwick, Otsego County, New York, January 20, 1864, the son of Morell and Augusta (Robinson) Lee. He was educated in the public schools and at Hartwick Seminary, and in November, 1884, graduated from Eastman's Business College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

He emigrated to Kansas and in January, 1885, started the first newspaper in Greensburg, that State. Upon the organization of Kiowa County, Greensburg was made the county-seat, and the *Greensburg Signal* was the first official paper.

After ten years at Greensburg, Mr. Lee sold his newspaper interests and bought the *St. Marys* (Kansas) *Eagle,* which he owned and edited for fifteen years. He served the people of that city as postmaster for thirteen years, holding commissions under both the Cleveland and Roosevelt administrations. He sold his paper and resigned as postmaster to come to Florida in 1911, at which time he settled in Winter Haven, where he established the *Winter Haven Chief* September 28, 1911, publishing the paper as a daily since September 15, 1924.

No man in Winter Haven is more widely esteemed than Mr. Lee. Since coming to that city he has been a great power for good; he has done much for the development of not only his immediate section but the entire county, and his editorial utterances are always timely and to the point. He has done much for Winter Haven and its citizenry appreciate him.

Mr. Lee is a Knight of Pythias, Odd Fellow, belongs to the Order of Red Men and a member of the K. & L. of S. He was married to Kate Welter at Greensburg, Kansas, June 29, 1892. Five children were born to this union: M. J., editor and owner of the *Haines City Herald;* C. L., secretary of the Florida Chief Publishing Co., and business manager of the *Winter Haven Chief;* Mrs. Fairfax T. Haskins, of Sebring; Vesta, of Winter Haven, and Mrs. Harold Duggan, of Orlando.

JOHN G. LESTER, M.D.

J. G. LESTER, practicing physician of Lakeland, was born in Kentucky, February 27, 1894, the son of Dr. W. W. and Belle Lester, the former a well-known practitioner of that section.

Dr. Lester graduated at the University of Louisville in 1918 with the degree of M.D., and became an interne in the Louisville city hospital, which at that time was under government supervision.

He removed to Bartow in 1919, but has been a resident of Lakeland the past four years. He conducts a general practice and has offices in the Marble Arcade.

Dr. Lester is a member of the County, State, American, and Southern Medical Associations, and belongs to the Phi Chi Medical fraternity. He is also a member of the Masonic order, the Shrine and the Cleveland Heights Golf and Country Club.

He was married to Gladys Patterson in Kentucky. They have two children: Louise and John (Jack) G., Jr.

JOSEPH LEVAY

For 21 years a merchant of Lakeland, Joe LeVay points with pride to the fact that he owns the second oldest business establishment in Lakeland, having with one exception been in business longer than any other firm in Lakeland.

Born in London, Mr. LeVay came to this country when he was sixteen years of age. He lived in New York City until 1907 when he came to Lakeland and opened a men's furnishing store in a building on Tennessee avenue just west of Munn Park. From small beginnings he has built up a fine business, and has a branch store at Haines City, both stores being up-to-date haberdasheries.

Mr. LeVay is a member of the Kiwanis Club, having held various offices therein; is a Knight of Pythias and an Elk, being Past Exalted Ruler of Lakeland Lodge No. 1291.

Mr. LeVay has always been interested in any forward move, and has done his share in the development of his home city. He was at one time chief of the Lakeland Fire Department.

ASA LEWIS

ASA LEWIS was born in Fort Meade, December 27, 1891, the son of W. H. and Sally J. Lewis.

When a very young man he engaged in business with his father, W. H. Lewis, one of the most prominent cattle men of the county. He has also been largely interested in the citrus industry, owning 72 acres of groves in and about Fort Meade.

In 1919 Mr. Lewis purchased the Fort Meade Hardware Company, which he still operates. Although the company has been incorporated, Mr. Lewis owns the controlling interest, and is in active charge.

He is an ex-member of the city commission, and is a member of the school board. He is a consistent worker for the Chamber of Commerce and Exchange Club, and is a member of the Tampa chapter of the Knights of Pythias, also member of the Methodist Church and serving on the board of stewards.

Mr. Lewis was married February 6, 1917, in Fort Meade to Lavinia Canter, and their children are Margaret, Asa H., and Richard C.

A. J. LEWIS

A. J. LEWIS, Bartow citrus grower, is a native of Georgia, born in 1863. He is a son of A. J. and Nancy Lewis, the former killed in action during the Civil War. With his widowed mother, Mr. Lewis came to Florida in 1877, and was educated in the schools of Hillsborough County. He engaged in farming operations in that section for some time and on October 1, 1890, removed to Bartow.

In partnership with U. A. Lightsey he established a livery business, and later, joined by his brother, W. H. Lewis, the three men engaged in cattle raising, the venture proving quite profitable. Mr. Lewis now confines his business activities to the growing of citrus fruit.

Mr. Lewis served on the Bartow Council for five years, and was county commissioner for one term. He is a director of the Polk County National Bank, and fraternally is allied with the Masonic order and Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Lewis was married in Hillsborough County to Isabelle Johnson, now deceased. Three children were born to them: Christine (Mrs. Holtsinger, of Tampa), Daphne (Mrs. M. D. Wilson, of Bartow), and one son, Walter. Mr. Lewis married Mrs. Ruth Pender at Bartow.

HENRY J. LEWIS

HENRY J. LEWIS, native of this county, was born August 10, 1880. His father, A. A. Lewis, came to this section from West Florida and engaged in stock-raising, and later, in truck farming. Candace (Frier) Lewis, his mother, was a native of Polk, as was her brother, J. R. Frier, who was probably the first white child born in Polk County.

Henry J. Lewis was educated at Socrum and received his business training at Jacksonville, Florida. He was connected with the W. J. Carter Mfg. Co. at Loughman, 1900, and later, travelled for Wm. H. Osborne Agency, having his headquarters at Tampa. He established a mercantile business at Kathleen, disposing of it a few years later, then entering into the produce business, and in 1910 blending this with the real estate business, in 1918 gave his time to real estate exclusively and in 1923 removed to Lakeland. While in Kathleen he served as postmaster for ten years.

Mr. Lewis is in partnership with H. E. Bridges, also one of Polk county's sons, and a general real estate business is conducted by the firm, (Lewis & Bridges), with special attention given to acreage.

Mr. Lewis is a member of the National, State and Local Realtors' Association. He was president of the Lakeland Real Estate Association, 1926, and is a member of the First Baptist Church and of the Chamber of Commerce. Fraternally, he is identified with the Masonic bodies, Knights of Pythias and the Elks.

Mr. Lewis was married at Kathleen July 9, 1903, to Maude Tucker, eldest daughter of Rev. J. W. Tucker. They have one son living, Joseph A.

W. H. LEWIS

W. H. LEWIS, of Ft. Meade, pioneer resident of the county, was born in Georgia, Sept. 2, 1859. His father, who was a member of the Georgia Regiment, died during the Civil War.

With his mother, Mr. Lewis came to Florida in 1873, settling near Keysville, in Hillsborough county, where he engaged in farming. In 1883 he came to Fort Meade, where he has since lived. He was one of the pioneer cattlemen of Polk county, and for many years was engaged in the cattle business with U. A. Lightsey, the firm name being Lightsey & Lewis, and they bought and sold cattle and shipped to all sections of the country. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Lightsey also conducted a large livery stable at Ft. Meade and Bartow, and their 180-acre orange grove near Frostproof was one of the finest groves in Florida. These gentlemen have disposed of their interests, and are now enjoying the fruits of their labors, having made a remarkable success in their large undertakings.

Mr. Lewis has been prominently identified with city and county affairs, having served on the City Council and City School Board of Ft. Meade, been a County Commissioner, and was a trustee of the county-wide bond issue which position he still holds. He was a member of the State Live Stock Sanitary Board, being one of the first members appointed on the board by Governor Hardee.

Mr. Lewis is a devout member of the Methodist church. He was married at Homeland, Fla., Nov. 17, 1887, to Sally J. Singletary. To them eight children were born. Six of them are still living: Mrs. C. L. Morrison of Lake City, Asa

Lewis of Ft. Meade, Mrs. R. I. Harris of Punta Gorda, Mrs. H. M. Wiggins of Lake Wales, James H. Lewis and Virginia Lewis, who are still living at home.

U. A. LIGHTSEY

U. A. LIGHTSEY, long a prominent and influential citizen of Polk County, was born in DuPont, Georgia, February 8, 1860, the son of C. B. and Sarah Lightsey. For the past sixty years he had been a resident of the county, having settled at Fort Meade with his parents in 1868, when a lad of but eight years. His death, which occurred at his home in Bartow, May, 1928, brought the deepest sorrow to hundreds throughout the county.

Mr. Lightsey was educated in the schools of Polk County. Until he attained his majority, he worked in his father's mercantile establishment at Fort Meade, but being of an independent nature, he then went into the cattle business, with no outside financial assistance—merely depending on his own efforts and energies to attain success. How well he succeeded is illustrated by the fact that for years he was known as the cattle king of Polk County, owning thousands of head of cattle throughout South Florida. In this business he was associated with W. H. Lewis, of Fort Meade.

Mr. Lightsey lived at Fort Meade from 1887 until 1893. In 1894 he moved to Bartow, where he engaged in the livery stable business for five or six years, his concern being an important one in those early days, and the largest of the kind in the county. After disposing of the livery business, he devoted his entire time to his cattle interests, but later sold these and had retired from active business for some time prior to his death.

Mr. Lightsey was a director of the Polk County National Bank; a member of City Council; served as Tax Assessor of Polk County from 1885 through 1886, and represented Polk County in the Legislature in 1887—the last year the county had but one representative.

He was a devout member of the Methodist church. He was married at Bartow to Helen Wilson. They had two children: J. Carlisle, a resident of Bartow, and Lucile L. (Mrs. T. F. Alexander).

JOHN LOGAN

No man in Polk County ever made a more enviable record in public office than did the late John Logan, for sixteen years sheriff of the county, and one of its finest citizens, whose sterling worth was appreciated by the county as a whole, to the highest degree.

Mr. Logan was born at Davis Creek, Alabama, August 31, 1872. His father, Ellis Logan, was a farmer, and for many years sheriff of Coosa County, Alabama.

After securing his education in the schools of Alabama, Mr. Logan left home at the age of twenty years, going west. He lived for two years in Indian Territory, working on a ranch. He then returned home to stay for a while, later going to Lakeland, Florida, during the Spanish-American War, and again returned home in the year 1898. In the year 1900 he was appointed Census Enumerator of the Sixth District of Alabama, holding this office until the year 1901, when he went to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. There he was made foreman of a large farm, and remained for two years. In August, 1903, he was married to Elizabeth Lyles of



John Logan

Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and came to Lakeland, Florida, with his bride to reside. Mr. Logan worked for two years as a carpenter in Lakeland, and was later made Chief of Police, serving three years. From that office he stepped into the larger sphere of sheriff, which position he filled with such universal satisfaction that he could have retained the office indefinitely had he so desired. At the end of sixteen years of splendid service, however, he retired on account of his health, having held office longer than any other official in the history of the county. He was fearless as any man who ever lived, yet gentle as a woman, and kind to every living thing. He rarely carried a gun or weapon of any kind, yet it is a matter of record that when he went after a criminal he got him, and with the minimum of display of authority. It was through his cool-headedness in several instances that made him widely known, not only in Florida, but also throughout the States.

The county has had all too few John Logans. His influence will long be felt; his memory will be cherished by the hundreds of warm friends who loved, admired and esteemed him one of the finest characters the county has ever known, and whose conduct of the important office he so long filled was so satisfactory as to be above reproach.

Mr. Logan died September 4, 1926, and is mourned by his wife and five children, namely: Nila (Mrs. J. H. Streator), of Gainesville; Shasta (Mrs. Roy Thompson), of Eagle Lake; John, Clayton, and Betty.

Mr. Logan was a Mason, Elk, Shriner, Knight of Pythias, and an Odd Fellow. A year before his death he built a fine home on beautiful Eagle Lake, in the midst of a ten-acre orange grove and farm, where his family now reside.

ROGER BLARE LYLE

R. B. LYLE, citrus grower, realtor and representative of an old Polk county family, was born at Bartow December 30, 1886, the son of William B. and Annie Laura Lyle. His parents were from Tennessee, and after their arrival in this section, W. B. Lyle became a grower of citrus fruit.

Mr. Lyle was educated at Bartow, and at the Florida Agricultural College at Lake City, this institution now being a part of the State University. During the World War he served nine months as First Lieutenant in the 31st Division. Since 1923 he has held the rank of Major in the Florida National Guard, and is in command of the 2nd Battalion of the 116th Field Artillery.

Mr. Lyle has been a realtor since 1910, specializing in acreage. He has orange groves throughout the county totalling over 100 acres of bearing trees.

He belongs to the Kiwanis Club, American Legion, 40 and 8, Shrine, and Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

He was married at Lake City, Florida, December 24, 1902, to Mamie Irvine and they have one child, Abbie Laura.

WILLIAM P. McDONALD

WILLIAM P. MCDONALD, whose rise to financial affluence and position has been phenomenal, and who is now rated as a millionaire, started his business career as a newsboy, on the streets of Tenafly, New Jersey. From the lower rung of the ladder to the top, his rise has been marked by a long series of accomplishments and achievements, based on the highest grade of service, his ability to choose able





assistants who would carry out his orders to the letter, and his ambition to give absolute value, dollar for dollar, in any undertaking entrusted to his firm.

Mr. McDonald was born in Tenafly, New Jersey, September 4, 1880, the son of Patrick and Mary Cullen McDonald, both of whom were born in Ireland. Educated in the Catholic schools of New Jersey, Mr. McDonald's first business activity, as a young man, was with the American Express Company, as a delivery-man. From that work he stepped into the road contracting business in 1898, and for the past thirty years has been engaged in this work, building up one of the largest contracting firms in the United States.

Contracts handled by the W. P. McDonald Company in Polk County alone total $10,000,000, in addition to which they have done a vast amount of roadbuilding in New Jersey, New York, Georgia, and at various points in Florida. The main offices of the company are at Flushing, New York, their Florida headquarters being located at Lakeland, where the concern occupies a suite of nine offices in the Marble Arcade.

Mr. McDonald is president of five other large concerns: the McDonald Mortgage & Realty Company, of Lakeland, owners of Biltmore Park, one of Lakeland's exclusive sub-divisions, where many of the city's finest homes are located; the McDonald Development Company, of Flushing, New York, which concern owns the docks at Flushing; the Consolidated Rock Company, which has a large plant at Brooksville; the Macasphalt Co., of America, and the Macasphalt Co., of Florida. Macasphalt is a road material perfected by Mr. McDonald, which can be laid without being heated, and is taking the place of asphalt in much of the road building now being done. Mr. McDonald is also chairman of the Board of Consolidated Quarries Corporation of Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition to his long list of triumphs in the road construction business, none have brought him the wide acclaim that attended his recent supreme achievement in refinancing the State Bank of Lakeland, preventing that institution from closing its doors, and thus saving thousands of dollars for the people of the Lakeland section. This bank, which is now known as the Lakeland State Bank & Trust Company, is largely owned by Mr. McDonald, who is president of the institution, and whose entrance into the financial circles of Lakeland has put the banking business of that city on a thoroughly sound and stable basis.

Mr. McDonald is a member of the Queens Borough Chamber of Commerce, the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, the American Road Builders' Association, the Lakeville Golf and Country Club, the New York Athletic Club, and fraternally is affiliated with the Elks.

He was married at Tenafly, New Jersey, to Mary Langan, and they have three children, Ruth E., Grace E., and Hazel M. The family spend the winters in Lakeland at their handsome home on Lake Hollingsworth Road, one of the show places of this section, the summer season being spent at the home in Flushing, New York.

DR. WALTER NOBLE McKAY

DR. W. N. MCKAY, prominent dentist of Winter Haven, Florida, was born at Indianola, Iowa, January 7, 1856. His father, Charles McKay, was clerk of the Circuit Court of Warren County for 12 years, and in 1882 was appointed

Registrar of the United States for the Postoffice Board. He held the latter office for a period of 35 years, returning to his home, Indianola, Iowa, until last year, when he died at the age of 99 years.

Dr. McKay graduated from the Northwestern Dental College of Chicago in 1893, taking honors in a class of 42 in crown and bridge work. The graduates from this school now admitted to practice throughout England without further examinations. An upper bridge made by him, the first full bridge to be constructed in the institution, is on exhibition in Berlin. It was the talk of the college as well as Berlin, for it was said "such work could not be done."

From the time of his graduation until 1913, Dr. McKay practiced dentistry in DesMoines, Iowa, and during 15 years of his residence there cared for the teeth of orphan children in the Home for Friendless Children, *free of charge,* while Mrs. McKay gave talks on "Care of Children's Teeth" once a month and supplying these children with tooth brushes, tooth paste and tin cups.

Dr. McKay has practiced his profession at Winter Haven since 1913, and makes specialty of crown, bridge work, metal plates, also pyorrhea of gums. He is a member of the National and State Dental Associations.

W. N. McKay and Louise Richey were married at Chicago, Illinois, on July 4, 1886, and they have one son, Lawrence, a florist of Philadelphia, Pa., who is a veteran of the World War, honorably discharged. Dr. McKay is member of the Congregational church.

The Doctor has an enviable practice in his home city, respected by all. Dignified in bearing, careful in treatment of patients, he is acknowledged one of the most progressive dentists in the State.

LOUISE NOBLE RITCHEY McKAY

Louise Noble Ritchey McKay was born in Franklin, Indiana, August 20, 1867. She graduated from high school and college, and married Dr. W. N. McKay of Indianola, Iowa, and is the mother of one son, Lawrence Noble Ritchey McKay.

Mrs. McKay came to Winter Haven in 1914, and early took an active part in civic affairs, one of her first activities was what she characterizes as "clean-up" day for the schools.

She has always taken an interest in the Republican party and has recently been selected as state committee woman to organize a "Hoover Club" in Winter Haven.

ANDREW S. McKILLOP

Andrew S. McKillop was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1866, and with his mother and brother came to this country when a small child. The family settled in Georgia, and Mr. McKillop lived in that State until he was 21 years of age. With Senator J. J. Swearingen, he came to Florida in a covered wagon, and located at Homeland.

Mr. McKillop was manager of the commissary of the Palmetto Phosphate Co. from 1900 until 1907, when he established his permanent home at Mulberry. For many years he was engaged in the mercantile business, and now has an insurance company.

Mr. McKillop is prominent in financial and civic circles of his community. He erected the first brick business building in Mulberry, and owns a large number of small houses in addition to his home. Mr. McKillop has been mayor or a member of the city council for 20 years, and served as school trustee for a long period. He is vice-president of the Bank of Mulberry, and a member of the Business Men's Club.

Mr. McKillop and Jennie Wilson were married at Homeland. They have one daughter, Mrs. Herbert F. Gaines, of Birmingham, Ala., who was born in Mulberry.

HART McKILLOP

One of the youngest, and by concensus of opinion, one of the most able members of the legal fraternity of the county, is Hart McKillop, of Winter Haven. He was born at Homeland, Florida, October 20, 1901, the son of James H. and Rosa Belle McKillop, who have made their home at Homeland for 42 years.

Mr. McKillop received his higher education at the Georgia School of Technology and the University of Florida. At the former school he took a two-year engineering course and graduated at Gainesville in 1922 with an LL.B. degree, one of the youngest men to complete the law course in the history of the University.

The same year he graduated he opened offices at Clearwater, with G. Wayne Gray, under the firm name of McKillop & Gray. In 1923 he removed to Winter Haven, and after practicing alone two years, formed a partnership with W. H. Hamilton.

Outstanding among the achievements of Mr. McKillop is the Florida Southern Abstract & Title Company, which he organized in 1924. This company, which has a capital of $100,000, has its main office in Winter Haven and branches at Bartow and Lakeland. Before the organization, Mr. McKillop made an extensive study of all Abstract plants in the United States, and the Florida Southern is unusually modern and complete. Title insurance for the New York Title & Mortgage Company is handled by this firm.

Mr. McKillop has, for several years, been a member of the Board of Governors of the Chamber of Commerce, and is past-president of the Exchange Club. He is a member of the Masonic Order and Shrine, Theta Chi college fraternity, and the American, County and State Bar Associations.

He was married at Bartow November 27, 1923, to Marie Wilson, who died March 20, 1927.

ANGUS BENJAMIN McLEAN

A. B. McLEAN, one of the largest truck growers in the county and a real developer of this section, was born in Robinson County, North Carolina, June 12, 1864; he is the son of Archer and Rebecca McLean, the former a veteran of the Civil War. Mr. McLean was educated in the schools of his native State, and when a young man moved to Georgia, where he was a turpentne operator.

He came to Bartow in 1899, and for some time followed his first line of work. Ten years ago he became interested in commercial trucking, and he now has a 290-acre farm between Bartow and Lakeland, 150 acres of which are under cultivation, 90 acres of which are irrigated.

Mr. McLean's business ability is unquestioned; that is clearly demonstrated by the up-to-date methods employed by him in conducting his farming operations.

During the winter months cabbage is grown in enormous quantities, and in the spring and summer the land is planted to corn and sweet potatoes with gratifying results.

Mr. McLean was married at Umatilla, Florida, to Annie Shelton. They have four children: Donald, Mary, Ruth and Benjamin. Mr. McLean is a director of the Polk County National Bank and worships at the Methodist church.

E. L. McLEAN

E. L. "Roy" McLean was born at Bordeaux, South Carolina, April 8, 1879. He is a son of S. S. and Alice E. McLean, who moved their family to Bartow in 1893, where Mr. McLean owned an orange grove.

E. L. McLean removed to the Winter Haven section in 1896. He grew tomatoes on a large scale for some years, and in 1900 set out an orange grove of 25 acres. At this time he and his brother own more than 100 acres of bearing trees. Mr. McLean was engaged in the mercantile business about fourteen years, but has since disposed of this business.

During the World War he was Supply Sergeant at the balloon school at Omaha, Nebraska, and at this time is Master Sergeant of the 116th Field Artillery and past Commander of the Winter Haven Post American Legion.

Mr. McLean is particularly prominent in Masonic work. He is a 32nd degree Mason, Scottish Rite, and in 1913 was Master of the Winter Haven lodge, and is a charter member of Egypt Temple, Tampa. He was one of the organizers and was first Worthy Patron of the local order of Eastern Stars.

Mr. McLean assisted in the organization of the American National Bank, of Winter Haven, and is a director of this institution. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Presbyterian church, serving as elder for many years.

He was married to Eva Maddox at Tampa, June 17, 1922.

GEORGE J. McNAMEE

George J. McNamee, office manager of the Armour Fertilizer Company at Bartow, is a native of Chicago, Illinois, born May 6, 1887.

Following the completion of his preparatory education, which he received in Chicago, Mr. McNamee was a student at Notre Dame University for three years.

He has been connected with Morris & Co. many years, first in Chicago, later being transferred to Atlanta, Georgia, where he was office manager of the Morris Fertilizer Works.

He came to Bartow in 1924 to assume charge of the company's office there, this being shortly after the merger of the Armour and Morris companies.

Mr. McNamee is prominent in governmental affairs of Bartow, being city treasurer and collector, auditor, clerk and ex-officio tax assessor. He was appointed to these offices in July, 1925. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

He was married in 1906, to Eileen D. Street, of Chicago. They have two children, George, Jr., and James M.

W. D. McRAE

One who has seen Polk County grow from small beginnings is W. D. McRae, who has lived in this section forty-five years, and done much of a constructive

nature. He was born in Chesterfield, South Carolina, in 1858, the son of E. H. and Mary Ellen McRae; the former was killed in the War Between the States. Mr. McRae attended the public schools of his State, and later became a farmer.

Coming to Florida in 1882, Mr. McRae was connected with the railroad at Sanford, but removed to Fort Meade the following year, making the trip in a covered wagon. Several months later he came to what is now Lakeland, where he was quite active in the upbuilding of the community. He was a member of the old Town Council, and was one of the first trustees of Lakeland.

He started work as a carpenter, later becoming a contractor. He followed this line of work for many years, until failing eyesight caused him to retire. He was also prominent in the mining of phosphate, being connected with Mr. H. E. Memminger. He was the contractor for six phosphate plants in which Mr. C. G. Memminger was interested, including the one at Coronet. Among the noteworthy structures he built in Lakeland are the Munn and Memminger homes on East Orange street, the Bryant building and the Loyal and Eureka hotels.

Mr. McRae was one of the organizers of the State Bank of Lakeland, the oldest financial institution of the city, and was a director for a long space of time. He is a life-long member of the Methodist church and fraternally is connected with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Woodmen of the World.

Mr. McRae and Lulu Annie Cason (deceased) were married in Chesterfield, S. C., and their children are Dr. Earle H. McRae and W. V. McRae of Tampa; Estelle (Mrs. T. I. Woods), Rose Aileen (Mrs. Harry Halden), and Henry. Mr. McRae has many other relatives in the city, about 75 of this family making their home in Lakeland.

A. T. MANN

A. T. MANN, a resident of Bartow for the past 61 years, and one of the county's leading citizens, was born in Brooks County, Georgia, in 1863, the son of A. V. and Georgia E. Mann.

Mr. Mann was the son of a doctor, and with his parents came to Florida in 1866. The family located at Tampa where they remained until the following year, when they removed to Bartow. The subject of this sketch has been an important factor in the development of Polk County, and has taken a prominent part in its affairs, having served as county commissioner for the past fifteen years, and for the past eight years has been chairman of the Board.

Mr. Mann, in the early days, engaged in the cattle business on a large scale. From 1894 until 1911, a period of seventeen years, he was in this business at Fort Myers. In the latter year he returned to again make Bartow his home, continuing in the cattle business, in addition to which he owns a number of fine orange groves in various parts of the county. He owns a 1,730-acre farm at Madison, Florida, and has other large holdings, including his fine home place of 395 acres just south of Bartow.

When Mr. Mann first settled in Bartow there were only 75 voters in the county. When he first became county commissioner his salary was $2.00 per year, the salary of this office now being $2,400.

Mr. Mann is a member of the Methodist church. He was married at Madison,

Florida, to Pauline W. Coffee. They have five children: Tappin Coffee, Myra (Mrs. Seward), George W., John L., and Edward L. Mann.

EDMUND MITCHELL MANNING

EDMUND MITCHELL MANNING was born at Crewsville, Alabama, October 9, 1891, the son of Mitchell Barney and Beatrice (Lauderdale) Manning. His grandfather, William Barney Manning, was an officer in the Civil War.

Receiving his elementary and High School education in the schools of Alabama, he later graduated from the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, Alabama, with a B. S. degree in Agriculture. He took post-graduate work at the University of Texas; A. & M. College of Texas, and Cornell University, and received his M. S. degree in Agriculture from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Mr. Manning was for awhile on the extension staff of the University of Florida and the U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating; Professor of Science, Wesley College, Greenville, Texas; Assistant Professor of Biology at A. & M. College of Texas; Professor and Director of the Department of Rural Arts in the College of Industrial Arts at Denton, Texas. He later served as Instructor of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell University.

These years of preparation and teaching have eminently fitted Mr. Manning to be the head of a successful florist and landscape company and when he came to Lakeland September 2, 1924, he established the Manning Floral & Landscape Co., which is one of the leading concerns of the kind in South Florida.

Mr. Manning holds membership in the Society of American Florists and Ornamental Horticulturists and The Florists' Telegraph Delivery Association. Mr. Manning is a Mason, Elk, member of American Legion, Kiwanis Club, Cleveland Heights Golf and Country Club, and the Baptist Church.

Mr. Manning was married August 19, 1919, to Janie Stroud, of Lakeland. They have one son, Edmund Mitchell, Jr.

H. A. MARKS

H. A. MARKS, who has lived at Winter Haven since 1899, was born at Salem, Massachusetts, July 21, 1851, and is the son of John B. and Rebecca Hawthorne (Perkins) Marks, the latter named for Nathaniel Hawthorne. Mr. Marks is descended from an old and distinguished family, who settled in Massachusetts in 1686. Although 77 years of age, Mr. Marks has the appearance of a man of sixty or less, and attributes this fact to the healthful climate of Florida.

After graduating from the schools of Lynn, Massachusetts, Mr. Marks engaged in the coal, shipping and dredging business in that city. Prior to his removal to Florida he spent one year at Memphis and three years at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

On coming to Winter Haven, Mr. Marks raised a grove from the seed up and lived thereon eighteen years. In 1918 he established the Winter Haven Wagon Works, the business consisting of two shops, one at Winter Haven, the other at Lake Wales. He has since disposed of these interests, and has retired from active business.

Mr. Marks was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Lynn for twelve years, during which time the library increased its volumes from forty thousand to more than one hundred thousand. He was also a member of the Board of Aldermen of the city, and in 1892 was elected a delegate to the National Democratic Convention held in Chicago. He is a member of the Masonic Fraternity, including the Scottish Rite and Shrine bodies.

He was married June 21, 1899, at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to Annette M. Butler. Mr. Marks has been married twice, his first wife having been Carrie Louise Spinney, who died in 1894. He had one son by this marriage, Irving S. Marks, who married Helen M. Koplin, daughter of George E. Koplin, of Winter Haven.

THOMAS L. MARQUIS

A builder—literally and figuratively—T. L. Marquis was responsible for much of the substantial growth of Bartow; he identified himself with the community life, and, at one time, was regarded as one of the most prominent men of affairs in Bartow. He died in that city December 22, 1920.

Mr. Marquis was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, June 16, 1863, the son of George and Mary B. (Fitzpatrick) Marquis. The former was a native of the State of Ohio, and was a well-known lawyer in Alabama and Florida, removing to Milton in 1868, where his son received his preparatory education. The latter later graduated from the Business College of Atlanta, Georgia.

T. L. Marquis was one of the earliest residents of Bartow, and with his brother, L. J. Marquis, did much building and construction work, being one of the first to erect brick buildings in Bartow. They also did railroad construction work on a large scale. Mr. Marquis built and owned the Dixie Opera House, which, however, is not now in use.

Mr. Marquis was wed to Sarah Reeves in 1912 at Barnesville, Georgia, and one child, Sarah Reeves, was born to this union. Mr. Marquis was a faithful member of the Presbyterian church.

GUY F. MARTIN

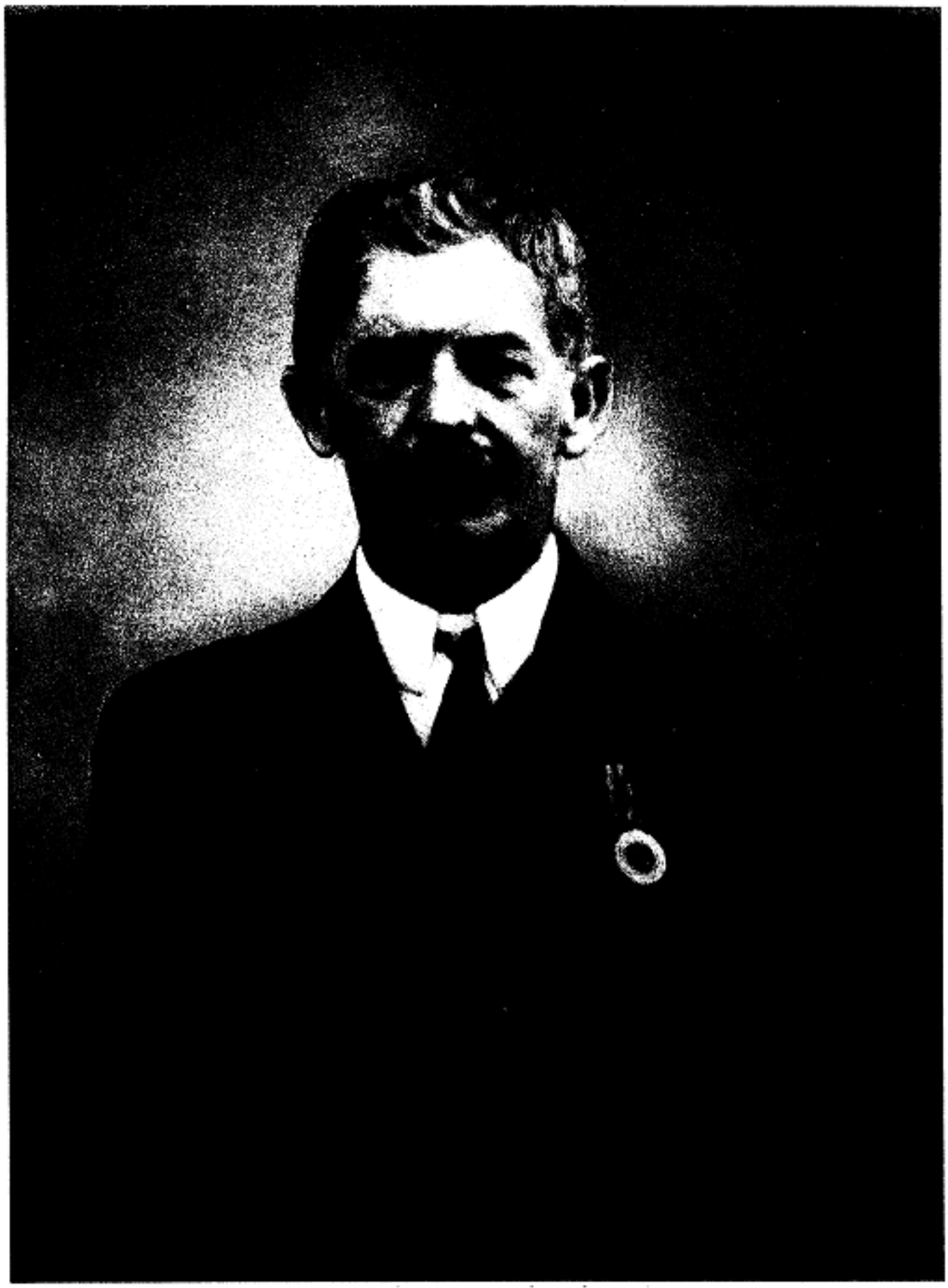
Guy F. Martin, owner of the French Dry Cleaning establishment of Lakeland, was born in Veedersburg, Indiana, June 21, 1876, the son of Lucius G. and Alta M. (Foster) Martin. His paternal grandfather was from Ireland, while his mother's father was Scotch, and they were early settlers in the Hoosier State.

Mr. Martin was educated in the schools of Attica, Indiana, and for twenty years was an accountant in that city, and in Wheeling, West Virginia. For three years prior to his removal to Florida he was engaged in the auto accessory business and assistant agent Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. in Danville, Illinois.

In 1923, Mr. Martin and his family established their home in Lakeland, and organized their present business, which has grown rapidly and substantially.

He is a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, and is a Mason. From 1906 until 1909 he was connected with the Republican Central Committee of Indiana, and during the war was active in Liberty Loan work at Wheeling.

He was married June 14, 1899, in Attica, Indiana, to Pearl R. Robinson. They have one daughter, Mary Margaret.



T. L. Masson

EUGENE CARTER MASON

Eugene Carter Mason, vice-president and general manager of Mammoth Groves, Inc., was born in Oakland, Illinois, February 22, 1897, the son of Walter Augustus and Grace (Carter) Mason and the grandson of Lorenzo D. and Clara (Norton) Carter.

He attended the Gilman School for Boys in Baltimore, and later graduated from the University of Chicago with the degree of B. S. For some time thereafter he was a corporation tax accountant in Chicago, later in West Virginia as a consulting tax expert for several bituminous coal companies, and before removing to Florida was in Indianapolis as a war and excess profit tax expert.

In addition to his interest in the Mammoth Groves Company, he has invested heavily in many other projects in and about Lake Wales.

During the war he was stationed at Camp Pike, Arkansas, as a First Lieutenant in the Seventh U. S. Infantry, and is a member of the Amerian Legion.

Mr. Mason and Ann Robinett were married in Little Rock, Arkansas, June 4, 1919. They have three children: Genevieve Ann, Grace Marjorie and Robert Clifton.

MRS. CATHERINE (FUNK) MAULTSBY

Active in the business life of Lakeland for the past 23 years, Mrs. Catherine (Funk) Maultsby has a record of achievement of which any man might well be proud.

Mrs. Maultsby was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, June 30, 1893, the daughter of Clarence S. and Mary Virginia Slifer Funk. She is of German, French and Swiss descent. Her grandparents were from West Virginia, and her father was a veteran of the Civil War.

Coming to Lakeland in 1904 with her parents, Mrs. Maultsby attended the Lakeland High School, and in 1909 accepted a position in the law offices of John S. Edwards as stenographer.

Her main business career opened in 1910 when she became the efficient secretary to Superintendent J. F. Council of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. She held this position for fifteen years, until the retirement of Mr. Council, when she severed her connection with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company for the purpose of assisting in the establishment of the Live Wire Realty Company, in which company she served as officer, being secretary and treasurer of the organization. Her associates later sold their interest to Mrs. Maultsby, and at the writing of this history, she is now the sole owner and operator of the Live Wire Realty Company. In addition to her real estate undertakings, she is also representing the following fire insurance companies: Hudson Insurance Company, Royal Exchange Assurance, Lafayette Fire Insurance Company and Guaranty Fire Insurance Company, as well as representing the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, and the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States.

It was while in the employ of the railroad that Mrs. Maultsby, then Catherine Funk, met her husband, Augustus Steel Maultsby, yardmaster for the A. C. L. Railroad Company at Lakeland. They were married December 19, 1926. Mr. Maultsby saw active service abroad in the World War, having been stationed for two years at Brest in the transportation service with the 106th Engineers.



Catherine Funk Maulsby

JONATHAN MAXCY

JONATHAN MAXCY, prominent banker of Frostproof, was born December 25, 1884, at Columbia, South Carolina. His father, James Gregg Maxcy, came to Florida many years ago, locating first at Lakeland, later at Mulberry, and in 1905 he removed his family to Frostproof.

Mr. Maxcy attended the Lakeland and Mulberry schools, and his education completed, he engaged in the phosphate business, being connected for twenty-four years with the Palmetto Phosphate Company, now the American Agricultural Corporation. He was mining foreman, and when he left the company ten years ago he was the active head of the plant. His rise to this place of responsibility came through years of well-directed effort and interest, Mr. Maxcy stating that during most of the 24 years he was with the company he was on the job twelve hours daily.

For the past eight years Mr. Maxcy has been a leader in the financial and civic circles of Frostproof, being an organizer and director of the Citizens Bank of Frostproof, one of the strongest banks in the county, and since the death of T. C. Banks, has served as the institution's president.

In civic matters, Mr. Maxcy has been a recognized leader, having for the past eight years served as a member of the city council, being at this time president of this body. He is a member of the Rotary Club, a Mason and a Shriner.

He was married at Fort Meade to Viva B. Tillis, a member of one of the county's oldest families.

O. C. MAXWELL

O. C. MAXWELL, an able lawyer of the county, was born in Nebraska. He attended the public schools of his home State, later graduating from the University of Nebraska with the degree of LL.B. He practiced law at Omaha, and represented the Union Pacific railway and other large corporations while engaged in his profession there.

Mr. Maxwell came to Haines City in 1925, since which time he has taken an active part in civic affairs, being at the present time president of the Haines City Chamber of Commerce.

For two years Mr. Maxwell was in partnership with R. T. Dewell, but for the past year has had as his partner Luther W. Cobbey, the two making a strong firm and one enjoying an excellent practice.

Mr. Maxwell is a member of the A. T. O. and Phi Delta Phi fraternities. He was married at Haines City to Louise Leek.

GEORGE D. MENDENHALL

GEORGE D. MENDENHALL was born at Mobile, Alabama, January 12, 1857, the son of James B. and Winifred (Dunlap) Mendenhall.

Mr. Mendenhall lived in Alabama until the close of the Civil War, when he and his parents moved to Brazil, South America. While in that country learned engineering under a Russian engineeer and did engineering work for the Brazilian government.

He returned to the United States when eighteen years of age, and after a year or two spent in Illinois, came to Florida in 1876, locating at Gulf Hammock, in Levy county, where he was a pioneer orange grower. Upon the discovery of

phosphate he moved to Dunnellon, and was in the mercantile business there for a number of years, moving to Tampa in 1900. In 1906 he moved to Coronet where he became connected with the phosphate interests. In 1912 he became a citizen of Lakeland, becoming the senior member of the firm of G. D. and H. D. Mendenhall, civil and construction engineers and architects.

Mr. Mendenhall has done much engineering work in this section, and is far-famed for his thoroughness, honesty and conscientious handling of all work entrusted to him. Mr. Mendenhall superintends all the surveying work of the firm, and is an authority on land lines. He is Dean of the surveyors of Florida, and is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, surveyor in the State.

He is an ex-member of the Rotary Club, member of the Florida Engineering Society, a Mason and a Shriner. He was married in 1882 to Eliza Drummond, of New York City. They have three children: H. D., Mabel, (Mrs. B. M. Sullivan, of Tampa), and Fred D., of Tampa. The latter made a brilliant war record, having been decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery while on the battle fields of France.

HERBERT D. MENDENHALL

HERBERT D. MENDENHALL was born at Gulf Hammock, Levy county, Florida, February 7, 1883, the son of George D. and Eliza (Drummond) Mendenhall.

After attending the schools of Levy county and Dunnellon, Mr. Mendenhall attended the Florida Agricultural College for one year, later graduating from the University of Texas as a civil engineer, and also with a B. S. degree.

From the day of his graduation, Mr. Mendenhall's career has been a series of achievements, and he was the fifth engineer in the entire United States to be granted a reciprocal registration license, which permits him to practice his profession in any State in the Union without a registration examination.

For a number of years Mr. Mendenhall has been a member of the firm of G. D. and H. D. Mendenhall, Civil and Consulting Engineers, Architects and Surveyors, of Lakeland. He had his first professional experience with the U. S. Engineers at Galveston, later being transferred to Tampa. He resigned this position to go to Nicaragua to do engineering work for the Nicaraguan government and on his return became chief assistant to Mr. C. G. Memminger on the design and construction of five phosphate mining plants in Florida, among them being the Coronet Mines near Plant City. He was one of the first engineers in the phosphate business in the State.

Mr. Mendenhall's activities have extended to all parts of Florida. He designed and supervised the Commodore Point Terminals at Jacksonville; a concrete lock on the Withlacoochee river below Dunnellon for the Florida Power Company; laid out some of the most important subdivisions of Lakeland, including Shore Acres, Dixieland and Casa Bella. During 1925 he had 34 engineers and over 100 engineering assistants working out of his Lakeland office. He did the architectural work on the Citrus Exchange building, the Peninsular Telephone building, the Southland building, the Vanity Fair Arcade, the Federal Ice Plant and many others, all of which are among some of Lakeland's most substantial buildings. He was also architect for the addition to the Lakeland High School, the

Shore Acres and Cleveland Court Grammar Schools, All Saints Episcopal church, Cumberland Presbyterian church and Christian Science church, all of Lakeland; Holy Cross church, Sanford, and St. Paul's church at Winter Haven.

During the World War, Mr. Mendenhall served for two years as Captain in the Engineering Corps. While in France he was decorated by the French Government with the l'ordre de Etoile Noir, Legion d'Honneur.

Mr. Mendenhall was a member of the City Council of Lakeland when the Commission form of government was voted, and was one of the first commissioners. He has served at various times as engineer for the city.

He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Past President of the Florida Engineering Society, member of the Florida Association of Architects, and a member of the Society of American Military Engineers. He is a Rotarian, a Mason, Shriner and a member of the Chi Phi College fraternity. He is also ex-president of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Mendenhall was first married to Clara Summerlin, of Tampa, in 1907, who is now deceased. He married Lucy Conibear in 1921, and they have one child, Mary Lucy.

WALTER J. MERRILL

WALTER J. MERRILL, president and general manager of the Lakeland Packing Co., was born in Burlington, Iowa, October 30, 1885, the son of John N. and Luella C. Merrill. Mr. Merrill's father was with the Burlington railroad for forty-one years, and now lives in Lakeland.

Mr. Merrill received his education in the Atlanta schools, having lived in that city from 1895 until 1907. He attended Georgia Tech for three years, and as a member of the Tech baseball team, he gained for himself such favorable acclaim as a ball player that on completing his college course he went to Jacksonville in 1907 to play on that city's team.

His active business career began when he took a position with C. W. Bartleson & Co., wholesale grocers, later holding positions with the Clyde Steamship Co. and the Central of Georgia railroad, being in the freight department of the latter company for two years.

Mr. Merrill came to Lakeland in August, 1914, at which time he became assistant manager of the Lakeland Packing Co. In 1917 he purchased the company, of which he is now general manager and principal owner, and it is now one of the leading packing concerns of the county. The house has a capacity of about six cars daily, and an annual business of 75,000 to 100,000 crates per season. The Lakeland Packing Company was established in 1914 by four commission men of the north.

Mr. Merrill is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and is a Mason and a Shriner. He was married in Jacksonville, to Illma Hollenbeck. They have two children: John J. and Eunice Joan.

J. E. MILLER

Few citizens of the county have made a more remarkable success in the development of a large and extensive business than J. E. MILLER, whose Model Market in Lakeland is the largest concern of the kind in the South.

Mr. Miller was born in Elkton, Todd County, Kentucky, August 17, 1888, his parents being J. W. and Ella (White) Miller. His paternal ancestors were pioneers of Virginia, while his mother's family were among the early settlers of Virginia.

Coming to Lakeland in 1914, Mr. Miller was with the Police Department for five years. Desiring to enter the grocery business he established a chain of Grocerterias in Lakeland in 1919, having three stores in various sections of the city. Seeing the need for one large store, he sold his smaller concerns and built the Model Market, which is a city block long and contains 15,000 square feet. Here everything the housewife can wish is to be found under one roof, and this big store draws trade from all sections of Polk county.

Mr. Miller is a progressive citizen and a real builder. He was married December 6, 1914, to Lucile Warren, of Lakeland, who, besides her other accomplishments, is a most capable business woman, rendering Mr. Miller invaluable assistance in the conduct of his splendid enterprise. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two sons, Edwin and Howard.

EARL HOUSTON MOORE

E. H. Moore, veteran nurseryman, was born at Wedgefield, South Carolina, September 24, 1883. He was reared on a farm in Georgia and attended the schools near his home.

He came to Bartow in 1905, where, for five years, he was engaged in the citrus nursery business. He removed to Eagle Lake and continued this line of work. His original ideas and well-directed efforts have done much for the advancement of this industry.

For three years he was in the construction business, building roads in the county, and in 1915 formed a connection with the Standard Groves Exchange. At this time he is manager of their packing house at Lynchburg, near Lake Alfred. This branch of the firm packs between 75,000 and 80,000 boxes of fruit a year.

Mr. Moore was married at Eagle Lake to Bessie Louisa Long.

JOHN A. MOORE

John A. Moore, a resident of Florida since 1878, was born at Fort Deposit, Alabama, October 15, 1855, the son of Capt. R. N. and Elizabeth (Fields) Moore, the former dying in action during the Civil War. His mother was left a widow with seven children. Anyone passing through those perilous times knows what that means.

Mr. Moore attended the schools of Alabama, and at the age of 23 years, came to Pensacola, where he was engaged in the mercantile business. He removed to Bartow in 1895, where he was a truck grower and fruit dealer, forming a connection with the Florida Citrus Exchange in 1914.

He was appointed Superintendent of Schools of the county in 1918, and held this position until 1921, when he again entered the truck and produce business. In 1924 he was elected supervisor of registration for Polk County, and in the primary just held, was re-elected by a large majority. He was responsible for the bill passed by the Legislature which specifies that the office of registration be

kept open the entire year. While he is an ardent Democrat and has been all his life, he is conservative, and gives every one the right to his own views, religious, political or otherwise.

Mr. Moore has been a member of the Methodist church for 55 years, and for forty years he has been a member of the Board of Stewards. He is a Knight of Pythias and Odd Fellow and has been a prohibitionist all his life. He neither drinks, chews or smokes.

He was married in Alabama, October the 31st, 1876, to Laura K. Brownlee. Their children are Marvin B., of Tampa; Lois, (Mrs. D. F. Jackson) of Georgia; Lizzie Lee, (Mrs. C. P. Hartsfield) of Hardee County; Nell, (Mrs. Bert Foy) of Tampa, and John Richard, deceased.

LACY ALBERT MORGAN

L. A. MORGAN was born at Nashville, Georgia, May 22, 1867, the son of Rev. Martin F. and Sarah E. Morgan. His father served as chaplain through the war in the Confederate army, and was in charge of various Baptist churches in Georgia for 37 years.

Mr. Morgan received his education in the common schools of Georgia, his first business venture being as editor of the *Vienna* (Ga.) *Progress* from 1888 to 1893. He went to Washington in 1893 with Chas. F. Crisp, speaker of the House of Representatives, where he spent six years. He re-entered the newspaper business at Americus, Ga., in 1899 and has since 1915 been an honorary life member of the Georgia Press Association.

Mr. Morgan moved his family to Florida in November, 1920, locating at Fort Meade, where he bought a fine orange grove in the city limits, and where he has since resided. Since coming to Polk County he has served as president of the Polk County Fair Association; was appointed by the county commissioners in 1925 as Beautification Commissioner of the county, and has been the only one to hold this office. He organized the Polk County Georgia Club in 1922, and served as its president for three years. He is a member of the Committee of Fifty, now engaged in working out a plan for the better marketing of citrus fruits, and has given much time to the organization of the citrus industry of Florida.

He is a Mason and a Shriner and has served as a Deacon of the Baptist church for the past twenty-five years.

Mr. Morgan was married July 14, 1892, at Unadilla, Ga., to Miss Hattie Speight. Their children are Margaret (Mrs. R. R. Dugger, Fort Meade), Louis A., of Clewiston; W. E., of Fort Meade; Hattie (Mrs. James J. Singleton), Fort Meade; Sanders M. Morgan, Clewiston, and Mary, who lives at Fort Meade.

HARLEY B. MORSE

HARLEY B. MORSE, a respected citizen of Polk County from 1886 until the time of his death, June 20, 1925, was born August 28, 1874, at New Woodstock, New York, the son of Roscoe and Lucy Morse.

Mr. Morse was of English descent, one of his early ancestors, on his paternal side, coming over on the Mayflower.



A. G. Mumm

He came to Polk County when twelve years of age, his parents having located in that year, 1886, at Auburndale, where his father engaged in the sawmill business. When quite a young man, Mr. Morse became associated with his father in the mill business, and for a long period they conducted a rice mill in Lakeland. In those early days the family lived at Auburndale, Lakeland and Lake Gibson, returning to make Lakeland their permanent home in 1903.

For a number of years before he died Mr. Morse was with the Lakeland Manufacturing Company as Superintendent of their mill. He was an expert woodworker, and gave invaluable service to the concern. He was with the Lakeland Manufacturing Company for 16 years.

Mr. Morse was a devout churchman, and was a prominent member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He was a man who possessed the highest sense of honor, and enjoyed the esteem and respect of a wide circle of friends.

Fraternally, Mr. Morse was an Odd Fellow, and he was also a member of the Junior Order of American Mechanics. He was married at Auburndale in 1894 to Una Cox. They had five children: Mildred, (Mrs. F. E. Johnson), Helen, (Mrs. J. S. Wilson), Harley B., Jr., Una Margaret and Ethel D.

ABRAHAM G. MUNN

ABRAHAM G. MUNN, founder of Lakeland, and one of the State's foremost developers in its pioneer days, was born in Orange, New Jersey, January 8, 1819, but spent the greater part of his life in Louisville, Kentucky, where he emigrated when 19 years of age. His education was gained through his own efforts at boarding schools in New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Mr. Munn, who was a successful manufacturer of Louisville, being in the seed and agricultural implement business in that city for 57 years, spent about forty consecutive winters in Florida, and on his first visit to the State in 1879 became enamored of the beauties of Florida. In 1882 he bought several thousand acres of land in Florida, including a tract of eighty acres, now the center of Lakeland, and engaged his son, Samuel M. Munn, a civil engineer, to lay out a town, which was named Lakeland. Many of the residents desired that the new town be called Munnville, as a deserved tribute to its founder, but this Mr. Munn would not allow, and the name of Lakeland having been suggested, it was chosen for its unusual appropriateness.

Mr. Munn had the privilege and pleasure of witnessing this city's growth and development until the year when he was called to his reward at the ripe old age of 90 years. Could he have lived to have seen the beautiful Lakland of today, with its magnificent Civic Center, fine public buildings, miles of paved streets, and modern improvements of every kind, he would, indeed, realize, as do those who have followed his steps in the work of development, that his foresight and faith were not misplaced.

One of Lakeland's early business firms was the Lakeland Improvement Company, incorporated by Mr. Munn and associates with a capital stock of $50,000, for the development of Lakeland. Mr. Munn spent a large sum in building up this section, and he was much interested in the citrus industry, owning a number

of fine groves. He built the Tremont Hotel in 1884, at that time one of the finest hotels in South Florida.

In the nearly half-century he was a winter resident of Florida, Mr. Munn divided his time between Lakeland, Winter Park and DeLand, in all of which towns he was a recognized force and factor.

Mr. Munn was married at Louisville, Kentucky, in 1845, to Rebecca Morton, sister of the late J. P. Morton, also a pioneer developer of this section, and for whom Lake Morton was named. He and Mrs. Munn had seven children, but only two now survive: William Garnett Munn, of Louisville, and Morris G. Munn, of Lakeland.

MORRIS G. MUNN

MORRIS G. MUNN, son of the honored founder of Lakeland, A. G. Munn, was born in Louisville, Kentucky, but for the past 47 years has been a resident of the State of Florida.

His preparatory education was acquired in Hackensack, New Jersey, and he later attended Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. At the conclusion of his college days, Mr. Munn returned to Louisville, where he was associated with his father in the latter's agricultural implement business, coming to Florida in 1881, at which time he located at DeLand. He was a resident of that place for twenty years, and while there developed a fine, bearing grove, only to have it wiped out by the freeze of '95. His faith was not shaken, however, and he took his losses and went forward in his work of development, looking after his father's interests in Lakeland as well as caring for his varied business affairs at DeLand.

In 1901 Mr. Munn became a permanent resident of Lakeland, at which time he was sales agent for the Lakeland Improvement Company, founded by his father. Three years later the Lakeland Improvement Co. deeded him all their holdings in Lakeland, which embraced some of the most valuable business and residential property in the town. While still retaining extensive holdings in the business district, Mr. Munn, a few years ago, disposed of an entire city block, then occupied by an orange grove, to the city of Lakeland, and on which are now located the magnificent municipal buildings—the City Hall and City Auditorium.

Mr. Munn, during his long residence in Lakeland, covering a period of 27 years, has been interested in municipal improvements of all kinds, and for ten years was a member and president of the city council. While in that office he served his constituents ably and well, many forward movements during the city's early days being due to his progressiveness. He has also served Lakeland as Mayor.

Mr. Munn is prominent in financial circles of Lakeland, being chairman of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank, and active vice-president of that institution, in which connection he has ably served for the past ten years. Mr. Munn is also president of the Morris Plan Company, secretary-treasurer and general manager of the Lakeland Improvement Co., member of the Chamber of Commerce, Cleveland Heights Country Club and is a life member of Lakeland Lodge No. 1291 B. P. O. E. He is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Unitarian church.

He was married at DeLand in 1884 to Mrs. Annie B. Robb.



Woodrow Wilson

JOSIAH P. MURDAUGH

J. P. MURDAUGH, pioneer resident of Bartow, and since 1915 tax collector for the county, was born at Charleston, South Carolina, February 10, 1874, the son of Josiah Putnam and Anna (Davis) Murdaugh. His paternal ancestors, who were from Scotland, were early settlers in South Carolina. On his mother's side he is of English descent; the original site of Charleston was owned by her family and was named Dorchester. His paternal ancestors were Scotch and were early settlers in South Carolina.

Mr. Murdaugh was educated at Eastman, New York, and for several years was connected with the Leopold Adler Department store. He came to Bartow in 1894 and was in the mercantile business, disposing of these interests to become a railroad construction contractor. For some time he was connected with the county as superintendent of the road system.

In 1915, at the time Park Trammell was Governor of the State, Mr. Murdaugh was appointed tax collector of the county, to which office he has since been re-elected at each State primary, having filled the office with credit to himself and the county he represents.

Mr. Murdaugh is a dependable civic worker, and since its organization, he has been an active member of the Kiwanis Club. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Masonic Order, Shrine, Elks, K. of P., I. O. O. F. and Woodmen of the World. He is a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Murdaugh married Mattie Dial at Bartow, and they have three children: Henry Dial, J. P., Jr., and Helen Ray, who recently married Byron King, of Atlanta, Georgia.

PERRY E. MURRAY

PERRY E. MURRAY, prominent attorney of Frostproof, was born near Vienna, Georgia, December 16, 1899, the son of J. W. and Sarah S. Murray. He is a representative of an old family of his native State, both of his grandfathers having seen valiant service in the Civil War.

Mr. Murray is a graduate of Mercer University, receiving the degrees of LL. B. and A. B. From 1923 until 1925 he practiced his profession in Macon, Georgia, and removed from that city to Frostproof, where he does a general legal practice in addition to being city attorney.

He is ex-president of the Chamber of Commerce, a Rotarian, Mason and ex-commander of the local post of the American Legion.

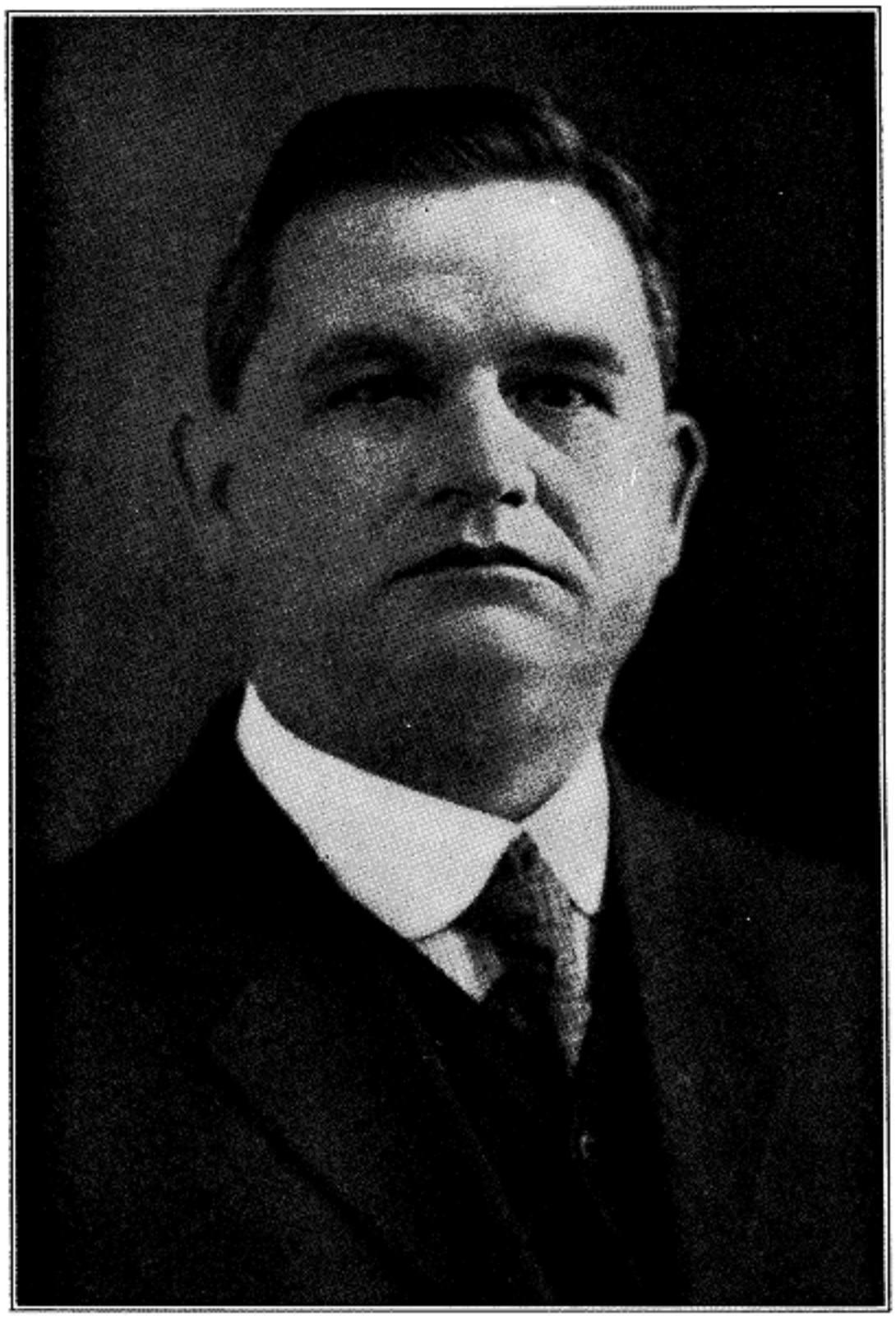
From 1917 until 1919, Mr. Murray was in the Navy, being stationed on the U. S. S. "New Hampshire" as a radio operator.

He was married to Lois Johnston of Honea Path, S. C., on May 11, 1925.

G. B. MURRELL

G. B. MURRELL was born near Wilmington, North Carolina, March 1, 1858, the son of John P. and Talitha Murrell; the former was a farmer, and served in the Confederate Army four years.

Mr. Murrell was reared on his father's farm, and when a young man, entered the service of the Atlantic Coast Line Railway, remaining with this company eight years. He removed to Levy county, this State, in 1897, and engaged in the naval



J. P. Murdaugh.

stores and lumber business there. Mr. Murrell came to Lakeland in 1903, and since that time has been one of that city's substantial citizens.

Until four years ago he was in the mercantile business, operating first as Murrell & Sharpe, later as Murrell & Grafton, and finally independently.

He has taken an active interest in school and civic matters. He served as a member of the county school board for ten years, the local board six years and for six years was a member of the city council. When he became a member of the Lakeland board there was one school building in the city and there are now seven large, modern, buildings. The number of teachers has been increased from 17 to 167.

Mr. Murrell, as a member of the city council, laid with his own hands the first brick in the paving of the city streets. He is a member of the Methodist church, and was on the building committee of the First Church. Fraternally, he is a Knight of Pythias.

Mr. Murrell was married in Williston, Florida, to Lillian Newsome, who for the past ten years has been treasurer of the Missionary Society of the First Methodist church, and is registration officer of Precinct No. 36. They have four children: Grace B., Albert N., Clifton H. and David P.

ROLLIN H. NAYLOR

R. H. NAYLOR, the efficient and popular postmaster of Lakeland, was born in Topeka, Kansas, November 25, 1883, a son of John W. and Emma (Morris) Naylor, who are also residents of Lakeland. The subject of this sketch is a descendant of Robert Morris, of Revolutionary fame, and is a grandson of Osborn Naylor, who was killed in action near Fort Scott, Kansas, in the War Between the States. His maternal grandfather, Isaac Morris, was a Captain in the Federal Army in the same conflict. He was buried at Los Angeles, California, April, 1918.

Mr. Naylor secured an excellent education in the public schools of Topeka and St. Joseph, Missouri, and upon his graduation was appointed as clerk in the U. S. railway service, with headquarters at Kansas City. In 1917 he was transferred to the division of foreign mails, and sent to France to assist in handling mail for the A. E. F. The following year he was granted leave, and enlisted in the army, receiving the rank of captain. He was discharged in 1919 and resumed duty in railway mail service at Kansas City.

Mr. Naylor was subsequently transferred to the Lakeland postoffice, and was appointed postmaster, January 16, 1924.

He is a member of the Masonic order and the American Legion, and worships at the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He married Sylvia Gebhart, of Phillipsburg, Kansas, September 14, 1910.

ALFRED C. NEWMAN, JR.

ALFRED C. NEWMAN, city manager of Winter Haven, was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, August 15, 1899, the son of A. C. and Isabella (Ingleby) Newman, both of whom were born in England.

Mr. Newman was educated at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and at the outbreak of the war enlisted in the army, holding the rank of second lieutenant



W. C. Norvell

in the infantry. Upon his discharge after the Armistice, he formed a connection with the George B. Hills Engineering Co. at Jacksonville, remaining with this firm for two years. He then became assistant sanitary engineer for the Florida State Board of Health, which position he held until March, 1925, when he resigned to come to Winter Haven with the Snively-Giddings Co.

He has been City Manager for the past year and has handled his duties ably and with fairness; he has made changes in the interest of economy, and is putting forth a strong effort to collect money owing the city. Among other things, the ball park has been improved, and Winter Haven was made training headquarters this year for the Philadelphia baseball team.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, and belongs to the Florida Engineering Society, the City Managers' Association of America, International Rotary and the Masonic order.

He was married to Leo Johnson in Jacksonville, January 2nd, 1919, and they have three children: Alfred C. III, Richard O. and Marjorie Leo.

H. S. NORMAN

H. S. Norman was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, February 9, 1895, the son of Edward and Hannah Louise Norman. He attended the Shattuck Military Academy, and upon the completion of his education, entered the manufacturing business in St. Paul, his firm making hats, caps, gloves, etc.

Mr. Norman came to Lake Wales in 1915 to enter the orange industry, and has done much toward its development. He is interested in extensive holdings of bearing groves located at Waverly and Lake Wales.

He is one of the organizers of the Ridge Manor Development Co., and is secretary and manager of the company. The property developed by this firm is located just south of Lake Wales. He is president of the Princess Realty Company, a holding and building corporation, that owns the Scenic theater. He is secretary and treasurer of the Lake Wales Mortgage Investment Company.

Mr. Norman was a member of the city council of Lake Wales four years, is an ex-director of the Chamber of Commerce, and is president of the Rotary Club. Fraternally, he is a Mason and a Shriner.

He was married in Knoxville, Tennessee, to Marian Stuart Morison.

WILLIAM COOK NORVELL

Loyalty to his work, his friends, his church and to his community, was, in a great measure, responsible for the popularity of the late W. C. Norvell, affectionately known to his hundreds of friends as "Captain."

He was born in Lincoln county, Georgia, May 10, 1864, the son of Thomas Benjamin and Mary Norvell. The former, a native of Virginia, and a veteran of the Civil War, was a graduate of Princeton University, taught school for a number of years and had the unique distinction of being "Captain" Norvell's only instructor in the school room.

Captain Norvell was reared on his father's farm, and his first employment was with the Georgia railroad, later entering the service of the Atlantic Coast Line in Florida. He established his home in Lakeland in 1904, and for many years was

a conductor, in charge of the train between Fort Myers and Lakeland. Capt. Norvell had extensive property holdings in and around Lakeland which included several choice properties in the city and a number of citrus groves.

He was a member of the Board of Stewards of the First Methodist church, and was largely interested in bringing Southern College to Lakeland. Fraternally, he was a Mason, Shriner and a Knight of Pythias.

Capt. Norvell and Kate Bonner were wed in Augusta, Georgia, July 11, 1894, and two children were born to this union: Erma, wife of S. W. Taprell, of Winter Haven, and William C. Jr., who graduated this year from the law school of the University of Florida. Mrs. Taprell has two daughters, Katherine and Jane Frances.

Capt. Norvell died in Lakeland, August 15, 1925.

WALTER D. OAKLEY

W. D. OAKLEY was born in Columbia, Alabama, March 10, 1889, the son of N. J. and Johnnie (Daffin) Oakley; on his father's side he is of Scotch-Irish descent, while his mother's early ancestors were from Holland and England. Mr. Oakley attended the schools of his native State, and received his training in law while in the legal department of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad, being with that company for 14 years with headquarters in Jacksonville and Lakeland.

From 1908 until 1911, Mr. Oakley was connected with the wholesale grocery business in Lakeland, and from the latter date until 1922 he was connected with the civil engineering department of the Atlantic Coast Line. In 1922 he was transferred to the legal branch, at which time he was moved to Lakeland. In 1925 Mr. Oakley severed his connection with the railroad and opened offices for his own private practice, and in 1927 formed a legal partnership with Wm. R. Cade, now operating under the firm name of Oakley & Cade.

Mr. Oakley is active in Masonic circles, being ex-Worshipful Master of Lakeland Lodge No. 91, Scottish and York rite, and is a member of the Shrine, his membership being in Egypt Temple, Tampa. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellows. Mr. Oakley is a member of the various bar associations, the Chamber of Commerce and the Baptist church. He has taken quite an active part in local politics.

He was married May 18, 1911, to Ardilla Louise Roquemore, and they have two children, Nathalie and Walter Daffin, Jr.

Mr. Oakley is an enthusiastic golfer, this game and hunting and fishing taking up his hours of recreation.

BENJAMIN J. OELAND

BENJAMIN J. OELAND, pioneer resident of Bartow, and for more than forty years Manager of the Western Union office of that city, is a native of Spartanburg county, South Carolina, born December 30, 1858. He is a son of Peter J. and Nancy C. Oeland; his father was a large land owner in the days before the Civil War, and after the conflict, in which he fought valiantly for the South, he became a mill owner.

Mr. Oeland came to Lake City in 1877 and engaged in the mercantile business. Four years later he removed to St. Augustine, where he learned the telegraph business, and in 1883 settled at Bartow, going there to become Manager of the Western Union office. He held this post until 1924 when he retired from active duty, however, he is still on the payroll.

Mr. Oeland has also owned valuable groves, but has disposed of these interests. During his residence in Bartow he has devoted much of his time to civic matters, and is now serving his second term as city commissioner. Before he retired from active business, he was city clerk and treasurer, serving in this capacity seven years.

He is a member of the Baptist church and is a Knight of Pythias. He was married at Bartow in December, 1883, to Mary E. Blount, a native of Polk county. Four children were born to them: Ruby (Mrs. G. O. Denham), Pearl, Beulah (Mrs. Paul C. Griffin), and Vernon, now deceased.

DR. J. M. OGLESBY

Among the very early residents of the county and one who has rendered invaluable service to its people, is Dr. J. M. Oglesby, whose residence in Bartow dates from March 19, 1887.

Dr. Oglesby is a native of Johnson County, Missouri, the date of his birth being September 1st, 1885. Upon the completion of his fundamental education, he attended Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, and received his degree as Doctor of Medicine. Following his graduation, he practiced in Missouri for seven years before moving to Polk county.

Dr. Oglesby is President of the Bartow Drug Company, and still maintains his practice. He is an indefatigable worker, and his influence has always been on the side of progress and civic improvement.

He is a member of the American, State, County and Southern Medical Associations, and is a Mason. He was married in Missouri to Eva G. Gittings, and four children were born to them: R. M.; E. M.; Eva M. and Knowles G. The latter was killed in action in France, and the local Post of the American Legion bears his name.

CLYDE OLIVE

CLYDE OLIVE, clerk of the criminal and county courts, is a native of Fayette county, Alabama, born November 24, 1888, the son of J. N. and Alabama Olive. His maternal and paternal grandfathers were veterans of the Civil War. He attended the high school and State College at Jacksonville, Alabama, and took special work at the University of Alabama.

Following the completion of his education, he taught school in Alabama for one term, and came to Bartow in 1912. For twelve years after his arrival in Polk county he was Chief Deputy Sheriff, serving under the late John Logan, and since 1925 has held his present office.

Mr. Olive is prominently identified with Masonic organizations, and with the exception of the Shrine, of which he is also a member, has been past presiding

officer of each body. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias and worships at the Baptist church.

He was married at Bartow, November 7th, 1914, to Maxie Stansell, and they have two children, Myra and Robert Lloyd.

GEO. WESLEY OLIVER

GEO. W. OLIVER, able member of the bar and ex-mayor of Bartow, was born at Paducah, Kentucky, August 2, 1869, the son of James Nelson and Emeline (Bowerman) Oliver. His educational advantages were unusually good; after graduating from the local high school he attended a select preparatory school and his training in law was received from Judge William M. Reed.

Prior to coming to Florida, Mr. Oliver practiced in Kentucky and New Mexico. He established his home in Bartow in 1912 and moved to Lake Wales in September, 1925, where he conducts a general practice, specializing in chancery and probate matters, corporation work, land titles and drainage laws.

There are seventy-five drainage districts organized in the State under the general drainage laws prepared by Mr. Oliver. Particularly has his work in reclaiming lands in Polk County received favorable notice.

Mr. Oliver was Mayor of Bartow for two terms of one year each, and during the World War was chairman of the United War Work Campaign. He is a Mason, a Rotarian, and attends the Christian church.

He was married at Louisville, Kentucky, in 1913 to Inez Parker of Paducah. They have two sons, George Wesley, Jr., and James Parker.

HORACE KING OLLIPHANT

JUDGE H. K. OLLIPHANT, one of the most able men practicing at the Florida Bar, was born at Enterprise, Mississippi, October 28, 1858. His father, Dr. Sam R. Olliphant, became a practitioner in Mobile, Ala., and it was principally here that the subject of this sketch received his education. After attending the Barton Academy at Mobile he taught school near Mobile for several years.

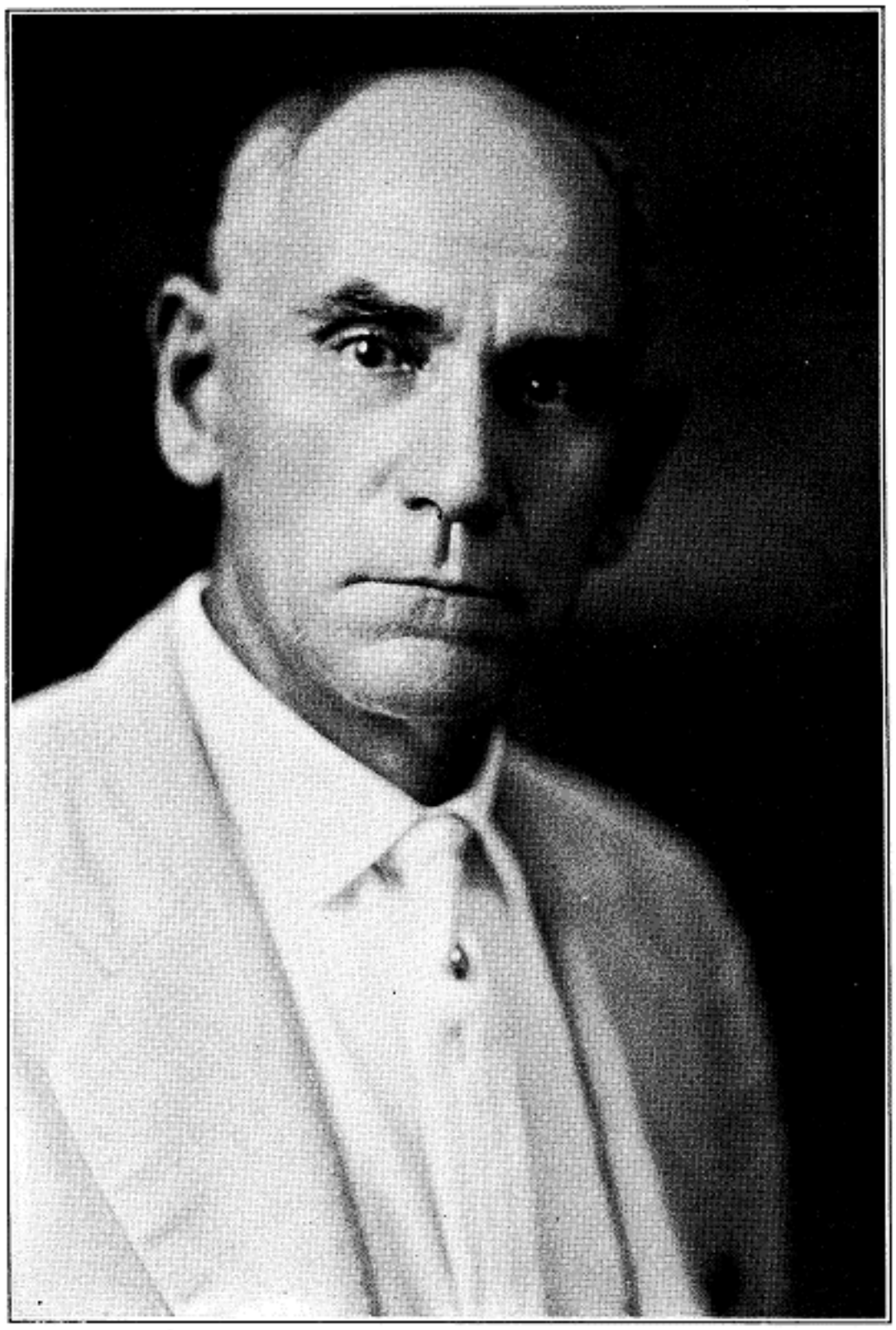
Judge Olliphant came to Pensacola in 1878 and entered the U. S. railway mail service. It was at this time he decided to become a lawyer; he carried on his studies in his spare time, and two years later was admitted to the bar. He became a clerk in the office of W. A. Blount, well-known lawyer, for several years and later established his own office in the West Coast city.

He came to Bartow in 1892 and formed a partnership in the practice of law with J. W. Brady, which continued for two years and then he practiced by himself, but for the past twelve years his son, H. K. Olliphant, Jr., has been his partner.

Mr. Olliphant has served Polk County for the past five years as Judge of the Criminal Court. Several times he has been requested to accept the office of Circuit Judge, but declined as it would mean the giving up of his law practice.

In addition to other official positions he has held, Judge Olliphant served as U. S. Commissioner while at Pensacola and also State Circuit Court Commissioner.

He married Olive Wood, of Mobile, who died in 1914. They had two children, Katherine L., deceased, and H. K., Jr. In 1920 Mr. Olliphant married Mamie L. Blount, of Bartow, and two children have been born to them: Maymie Evelyn and Rheta Lillian, now deceased.



Geo. W. Oliver

MISS GERTRUDE OVERSTREET

One of the outstanding civic workers of Lakeland is Miss Gertrude Overstreet, who is a leader in all good works. Born in Baxley, Georgia, October 16, 1890, her parents being Henry Hane and Miriam (Middleton) Overstreet, she was educated in the public schools of Georgia.

She received her first business experience in Baxley when she did stenographic work in the office of the county clerk. She came to Lakeland, September 20, 1912, at which time she accepted a position in the office of J. E. Melton as the latter's secretary.

In September, 1922, she became a real estate operator under the name of Calvin & Overstreet, but at the present time is acting independently. Several subdivisions were developed by her, these including Lake Hunter Terrace Heights, Avalon Place and College Park Addition. She built and sold a number of houses, her real estate operations running into many thousands of dollars.

Miss Overstreet has always been actively engaged in any work looking to the development of Lakeland or its institutions. She has been a leader in drives for such worthy institutions as Southern College, the Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross, Liberty Loan, etc.

She is a member of the City Planning Board, the Advisory Board, the Business and Professional Women's Club and the Eastern Star. She is a member of the Methodist church, having served on the Board of Stewards for a number of years.

MRS. ANNE NOLD PADDOCK

One of the leading business and club women of Lakeland, Mrs. Anne Nold Paddock, was born at Fort Scott, Kansas, July 30, 1878, the daughter of William Bryant and Alice Margaret (Bolles) Nold. One of her early ancestors was Robert Bruce of Scotland. Her first American ancestor was Roger Williams of England, and when driven out of Massachusetts for his religious beliefs was given a tract of land by the Indians which later became the State of Rhode Island, and he founded the City of Providence. Cincinnati, Ohio, and Fort Scott, Kansas, were founded by her great-grandparents and grandparents, respectively.

Mrs. Paddock was educated in the schools of Fort Scott, Kansas, Kirkwood, Missouri, and St. Louis, Mo. She is a graduate of a business college of the latter city.

Coming to Lakeland April 14, 1914, Mrs. Paddock was for six months assistant secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. For four years thereafter she was with H. J. Drane as private secretary, and for the past several years has been State Secretary of the Pan-American Life Insurance Co., being one of the best posted insurance representatives in the State.

Mrs. Paddock was the organizer of the Pioneer club, now the Business and Professional Women's Club, of which organization she is President. She is a member of the Woman's Club, is Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the Rose Keller branch of the Florida Children's Home Society, and was chosen to present Lakeland's plan of beautification as prepared by Charles Leavitt, to all

the civic clubs of the city. She is a member of the Presbyterian church and was the first Secretary of the Red Cross work in Lakeland.

Mrs. Paddock was married June 26, 1907, in Chicago, to Martin Luther Paddock, now deceased.

CHESTER A. PARKER

CHESTER ALLAN PARKER was born in Fort Meade, March 27, 1884, the son of Everett S. and Arta Francis (Lewis) Parker. His maternal grandmother moved to Fort Meade from Georgia in the county's early days, living there until her death, at the age of 99 years.

Mr. Parker was educated in the rural schools of Polk County and at the Florida Normal Institute. He taught school in Polk County for twelve years prior to his election as Superintendent of Public Instruction, which office he filled for eight years. Since holding public office he has been the State representative of the Dameron-Pierson Co., Ltd., and the Columbia School Supply Co., of Indiana. These firms have warehouses in Lakeland and distribute school supplies, desks, etc., over all of Southern Florida.

During Mr. Parker's administration as school superintendent, the school terms were lengthened; the special tax districts were increased from 30 to 59, and the rural schools, particularly, were improved, modern buildings taking the place of old structures, and the standard of teaching raised so that a pupil from the rural schools could enter any city school without examination.

Mr. Parker is a faithful member of the Baptist church, and has been an active civic worker whenever called upon. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and the Junior Order of Mechanics.

He was married February 14, 1911, to Myrtle Fields, of Kissimmee, and they have six children: Everett Love, Velva, Chester, Dennison, Francis and J. W.

T. J. PARKER

T. J. PARKER, one of the founders of Lake Wales, has the added distinction of being one of Bartow's first citizens, having been born in that city—then a pioneer village—on November 20, 1864. He is the son of Streety and Mary Parker, of North Carolina, who came to Florida several years before he was born. The former was a pioneer cattle man and farmer, and owned a 400-acre farm near Bartow. During his lifetime he was a prominent figure in the county.

Mr. Parker attended the Bartow school and in 1884 graduated in law from Washington and Lee University, but never practiced his profession. He and the late T. L. Wilson and J. H. Humphries were classmates at Washington and Lee.

Mr. Parker returned to Bartow shortly before his father died, and for several years thereafter he was engaged in settling up the estate. After the freeze of 1895, his groves having been killed, Mr. Parker engaged in the cattle business, his pastures being near Kissimmee. After several years he retired from the cattle business on account of ill health. He removed then to Sick Island near Lake Wales, where he planted a grove. He lived there until 1912 when he became one of the founders of the town of Lake Wales. He bought much property in the town, and went into the mercantile business there. He organized the first bank in

Lake Wales, which was called T. J. Parker & Co. His interests were bought by E. C. Stuart and associates, and the State Bank of Lake Wales was established.

Mr. Parker was one of the organizers of the Citizens Bank of Lake Wales and was its first president. He sold his interest in this institution in 1924. His mercantile establishment was sold by him several years ago to B. K. Bullard. He is still one of the largest property owners in Lake Wales, but has practically retired from active business.

Mr. Parker is a Knight of Pythias and an Odd Fellow, being past commanding officer of both organizations. He was married February 2, 1888, to Julian Hankins. of Suwanee county, the wedding taking place at Bartow.

ADOLPHUS D. PARRISH

A. D. PARRISH was born in Johnson County, North Carolina, May 31, 1882, the son of W. G. and Sarah Parrish. He attended the schools in his native State, and at the age of twelve years entered the service of the Southern railroad as messenger boy. He continued with this company for many years, holding the positions of telegraph operator, chief clerk, train dispatcher and train master.

In 1902, Mr. Parrish left the Southern for the Atlantic Coast Line, and was made train dispatcher for all territory from Jacksonville to Port Tampa. Later, he removed to Sanford where he lived for ten years, and in 1917 was transferred to Lakeland. In 1924, he resigned from the railroad service and engaged in the real estate business in Lakeland. He also built 25 houses in Lakeland, 17 of which are in Dixieland, one of the best residential sections of the city.

In the spring of this year (1928), Mr. Parrish announced as a candidate for sheriff of the county, but a few weeks before the primary, he became seriously ill, and upon the advice of his physician withdrew from the race. That he would have been a strong contestant is admitted by all, and his hundreds of loyal supporters throughout the county were sorely disappointed that his physical condition compelled him to withdraw.

Mr. Parrish is president of the men's board of the Rose Keller branch of the Florida Children's Home Society; is past exalted ruler of the Elks and chairman of the Kiddies Committee of this organization; is a Civitan and a member of the Presbyterian church. His leadership and enthusiasm was particularly helpful during the World War, when, as a resident of Sanford, he served as chairman of four drives.

Mr. Parrish was married to Mazie Saunders in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1897. At that time he was 19 years of age, while she was but 15. They have one son, Harvey, and a grandchild, Harvey, Jr.

NAT J. PATTERSON

NAT J. PATTERSON was born at Wellborn, Florida, March 27, 1883, the son of Nat John and Sarah J. Patterson. His grandfather, Nat J. Patterson, was a member of the Georgia Legislature and also served in the State Senate.

After securing his preparatory education, Mr. Patterson graduated in law from Cumberland University, and located in Fort Meade in 1915 where he engaged in the practice of law with Mel A. Wilson under firm name of Patterson

& Wilson. Aside from his law practice, Mr. Patterson is also city attorney of Fort Meade.

He is a member of the State Legislature, having been elected to this office in 1926. He is a member of the County Bar Association, the Exchange Club, and is a Mason, Shriner, and a Knight Templar. He worships at the Methodist church.

He was married February 21, 1917, to Gladys W. Francis, of Fort Meade. They have two children: Nat J., Jr., and Emily Inez.

MISS NUNA PATTON

A successful business woman of Lakeland since 1904, Miss Nuna Patton, owner of Patton's Ladies' Store, has seen her home city develop from a straggling village to its present large proportions, and has lent her efforts, whenever possible, to any worthy cause contributive to its general advancement.

Miss Patton was born in Greensburg, Kentucky, the daughter of Alexander Lee and Ella (Durham) Patton. Her great-great-grandfather, William Patton, moved to Kentucky from Virginia about 1781. His eldest son, Alexander, married Sarah Simpson, of South Carolina, and their son, William S. Patton, married Margaret Lee, a daughter of Joshua Lee, of Virginia, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Alexander Lee Patton, their son, the father of Miss Nuna Patton, was a Confederate soldier with Gen. John H. Morgan.

After attending Peabody Normal College, Nashville, Tenn., Miss Patton returned to her home in Greensburg, Kentucky, where she conducted a millinery establishment for four years. In November, 1904, she came to Lakeland and engaged in the millinery business, since which time she has conducted establishments of her own, all of which have been markedly successful. She now owns one of the city's leading ladies' stores, in which a full line of ladies' dresses, hats, coats and accessories are carried.

In addition to her store, Miss Patton owns valuable real estate in Lakeland. She is a member of the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Business and Professional Women's Club and the Baptist church. She has also been active in Red Cross work of various kinds, particularly doing splendid work during the World War.

ROBERT PEACOCK

Robert Peacock, of the firm of Peacock Bros., machinists, Lakeland, was born in Carluke, Scotland, and grew to manhood in that country. He is the son of Thomas and Mary Byers (Kerr) Peacock, and his grandparents were Andrew Peacock and Grace Ritchie.

Mr. Peacock is a graduate of Carluke High School and later attended Cambusnethon Tech at Wishan, Scotland. Upon his arrival in America in 1913 he became a toolmaker for the National Cash Register Company, and later accepted a similar position with the Ford Motor Company. Prior to coming to Lakeland he was connected with the General Electric Company as turbine construction engineer. During the war, Mr. Peacock was an inspector for the government in the steamship service.

The subject of this sketch established his home in Lakeland six years ago and conducts a general machine shop at 410 East Pine street. The firm specializes in cylinder regrinding and rebuilding motors.

Mr. Peacock is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Old Colony Club and the Presbyterian church. He was married in New York City, October 7, 1919, to Annie Kean Rowatt, of Glasgow, Scotland. They have two sons, Thomas and George R., and a daughter, Roberta Anne.

JOSEPH ROGERS PERSONS

J. R. Persons, identified with important and large mercantile interests of Florida in the ownership of twenty-four ladies' wearing apparel stores, and a far-sighted, discriminating and resourceful business man, was born in Marion County, Georgia, May 2, 1888. He is a son of James M. and Betty (Rogers) Persons, the former a native of the State of North Carolina.

Mr. Persons entered the mercantile business in Moultrie, Georgia, going into partnership with his brother. He later established a ladies' ready-to-wear and department store at Waycross.

He opened the Ladies' Haberdasher, of Lakeland, in the latter part of 1922, and makes his home in that city. Co-owners of his other twenty-three stores in Florida are his brothers, G. W. Persons, of Kissimmee, and Charles Persons, of Fort Myers. These men are ardent believers in the future of the State, as evidenced by the fact that they disposed of all their property in Georgia to invest in Florida.

Mr. Persons is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is a steward of the College Heights Methodist church.

He married Vertie Sinclair in Moultrie, July 20, 1916. They have one son, Joe Rogers, Jr.

JAMES HARDIN PETERSON

Although in his early thirties, James Hardin Peterson has a long list of achievements to his credit which would constitute an enviable record for a much older man. Since 1923, he has served the county as Solicitor, and previous to this time was prosecuting attorney. With the exception of one year since 1916 he has been city attorney of Lakeland, and now serves Lake Wales, Eagle Lake, Highland Park and Hillcrest Heights in the same capacity.

Mr. Peterson is a South Carolinian by birth, having been born in Batesburg, February 11, 1894, the son of Newton F. and Willa E. (Geiger) Peterson. He is a representative of an old and distinguished family, tracing his ancestors to the days of the Revolution. When an infant his parents removed to Florida, first settling in Alachua County and later in Hamilton. They established their home in Lakeland in 1903, and Mr. Peterson attended the local high school, graduating with honors. Spurred on by a relentless ambition, he worked to help pay his tuition at the University of Florida, and was graduated from that institution in 1914 with the degree of LL.B.

During the World War he served in the U. S. Navy as chief yeoman, and was in active service about one year.

He started practice in Lakeland, and in 1919 formed a partnership with A. R. Carver, this firm now enjoying the distinction of having the largest law offices in the city.

Mr. Peterson is a member of the Knights Templar, Masonic order, Shrine and Knights of Pythias. Legally, he is associated with the American, State, County and Lakeland Bar Associations and the Commercial Law League of America.

He was married in Jacksonville, May 29, 1917, to Christine Farrar. They have two children, James H., Jr., and Ann.

EDMUND PIERCE

EDMUND PIERCE, prominent political and financial figure and developer of note, was born in Huron County, Ontario, Canada, July 6, 1863, and at an early age moved with his parents to Michigan. He was the son of Patrick and Mary C. Pierce, both of whom were born in Ireland.

Senator Pierce was first interested in the railway business, and in connection with this work lived for four years in Minnesota. Later, he removed to Sheldon, North Dakota, and by his private study and application to the subject, successfully passed the bar examinations, and engaged in the practice of his profession. He was also the organizer and vice-president of the State Bank of Sheldon. He established the law firm of Pierce, Tenneson, Cupler and Stambaugh in Fargo, North Dakota, and in addition to his practice was interested in the banking business there. From 1903 until 1913 he served his county as State Senator.

Senator Pierce first came to Florida in 1903, spending the winters at Daytona Beach and other resort towns along the East Coast. About 1910, he became interested in what is now known as Lake Alfred, and organized the Florida Fruitlands Company, later called the Fruitlands Company. In 1924 and 1925 he disposed of his home and other interests at Lake Alfred and purchased from A. M. Klemm and Son a piece of property located in the central part of Winter Haven. He then organized a company and developed the property under the name of Silver Shores, in which are located some of the finest buildings in the city.

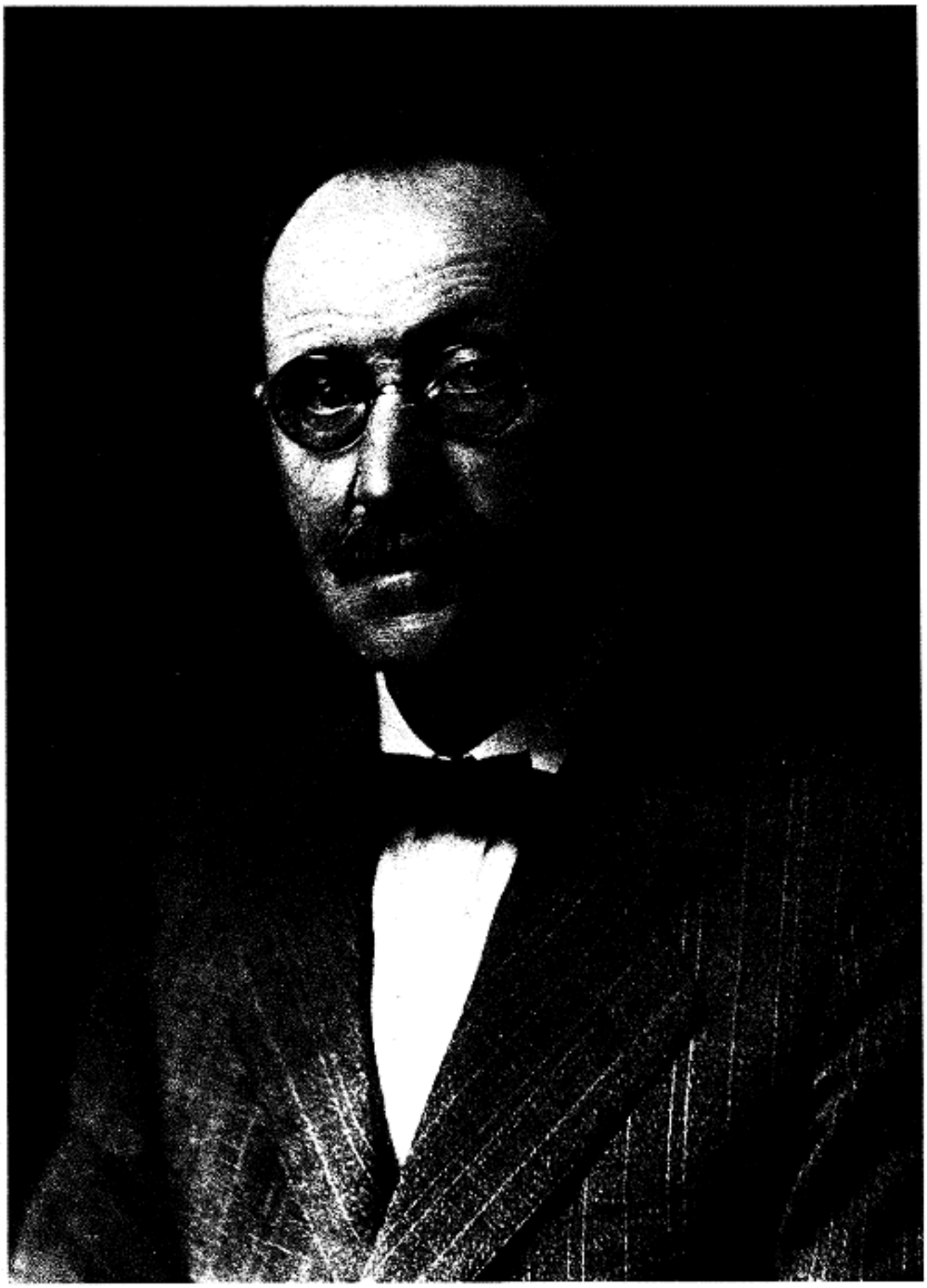
He was a member of the Woodmen, Knights of Columbus and Elks.

Senator Pierce and Margaret C. Doran were married January 25, 1903. He owned an attractive residence in Winter Haven, where his widow now resides. His nephew, Francis E. Pierce, is secretary and treasurer of The Winter Haven Company, and was closely associated with his uncle. Senator Pierce died November 23, 1927.

CLAUDE OWEN PINCH

C. O. PINCH, electrical engineer and radio expert, is a native of Michigan, born at Olivet, June 28, 1883, the son of Benjamin Will and Mary E. (Van Geison) Pinch and a grandson of Frank Pinch, the latter an Englishman by birth.

Mr. Pinch attended Michigan College and the University of Michigan, receiving from the latter institution the degree of B. S. in electrical engineering. For several years he was connected with the Western Electric Company, and was transferred from the East to Florida, where he was made State manager for his company.





Mr. Pinch has been active in construction work, having erected a number of light and water plants throughout the State.

He removed to Lakeland in 1914, and established the Pinch Electric Equipment Co. and Radio Laboratory.

Mr. Pinch served two terms as president of the Chamber of Commerce, is acting executive of the Lakeland Community Welfare League, and is a member of the Boy Scouts Council. He is a Rotarian, a member of the Elks and worships at the Presbyterian church.

He wedded Helen M. Cumley in Chicago, January 25, 1908, and they have four children: Jack Owen, Helen Mary, William Claude and Janet Mabel.

L. N. PIPKIN

L. N. PIPKIN, prominent banker of Mulberry for over twenty years and a resident of the county since 1883, has wielded a mighty influence in the business, social and religious life of his community.

Mr. Pipkin was born in Alabama in 1866, the son of Nathan and Margaret Elizabeth (Hart) Pipkin. His parents removed to Georgia when he was small, and he attended the schools of Pulaski county, that State. The family came to Florida in 1883, settling about three miles northeast of Mulberry, where his father took up a homestead.

Mr. Pipkin was engaged in the butcher and meat business in Lakeland and Bartow from 1889 until 1894, when he established a store in Mulberry, the first store of any consequence in that place. Mr. Pipkin remained in the mercantile business there for fifteen years, during which time he accumulated a large amount of real estate. He organized the Bank of Mulberry in 1907, and has been the active head of this institution ever since. The deposits of this bank are about $800,000, and the handsome building in which it is housed was erected in 1924.

Mr. Pipkin has been active in the phosphate industry, having bought and developed several phosphate properties which he sold to companies who organized and are operating mines. His activities have ever been progressive, and it is an acknowledged fact that he with E. C. Stuart and others were responsible for getting the Seaboard Airline railway to run through Mulberry and Bartow and Polk county.

It was due to the efforts of Mr. Pipkin that Southern College was located in Lakeland, as he gave, in addition to his time, a large amount of money that this might be accomplished.

He was the donor of all land on which the school buildings of Mulberry stand, his personal attention being given to the schools of that place since first he became a resident, at which time the town had only a small frame building and one teacher was in charge.

In addition to his other banking activities, Mr. Pipkin was one of the organizers of what is now the First National Bank, of Lakeland, and was a member of the board of directors for some time. Mr. Pipkin has been a life-long and devout member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Pipkin and Florrie B. Proctor were married on January 31, 1893. Their children are Juanita (Mrs. O. O. Feaster), Luther N., Thelma (Mrs. B. E. Hewitt), Eunice (Mrs. Zerney Barnes), Bernice (Mrs. B. L. Feaster), and Ruth Elizabeth.

E. A. PLATH

E. A. PLATH, one of the leading civil engineers of Polk County, was born in Waseca, Minnesota, February 14, 1877, the son of Mary and Chas. L. Plath.

After attending the schools of his home State, Mr. Plath attended the University of Minnesota, and for a time was connected with the *Chattanooga* (Tenn.) *Times*. In 1898 he took up his engineering career with the Southern railway, by whom he was first employed, his work being on a new line from Chattanooga to Stevenson, Alabama. His next work was for the government at Chattanooga, where he remained until 1902, when he went to Birmingham and made the original survey for the Seaboard Air Line Railway from Birmingham to Atlanta. He next went to Texas and made surveys for the T. & B. V. railway, running from Clebourn to Mexia, Tex.

In 1906 Mr. Plath came to Florida, and was located at Tampa for a year and six months while making surveys and supervising construction for the Tampa Northern Railway. In 1907 he came to Bartow, and for six and one-half years was assistant superintendent of the Florida Phosphate Mining Corporation. He was next superintendent of the Swift Company for three years, and for a like period was superintendent of the Lakeland Phosphate Company.

Mr. Plath had charge of all street paving and surveys for the streets of Lake Wales, and also did much road survey work in Marion and Pasco counties. Since 1924 he has engaged in private practice at Bartow, where he has established engineering offices, and since locating in the county permanently has made the surveys for most of the roads built in the county since 1924, and has supervised the construction of about $2,000,000 worth of highways. At the present time he is engaged on road contracts at Frostproof and Babson Park.

Mr. Plath is a member of the Kiwanis Club and is a Mason and a Shriner. He was married at Bartow to Bessie M. Summerlin, member of one of the county's most prominent families. Two children were born to this union: Bessie M. and Harriett Ruth.

J. WALKER POPE

Varied important projects have occupied the attention of J. Walker Pope during his 17 years' residence in Polk County, and his enterprises have been markedly successful.

He was born at Macon, Missouri, July 23, 1868, the son of A. R. and Nancy L. Pope; the former was a veteran of the Civil War and held the rank of colonel. Upon the completion of his education, received in the schools of Missouri and Minnesota, Mr. Pope lived in California for some time. Prior to his removal to Winter Haven he made his home in Minneapolis for fifteen years, where he was a real estate broker.

Mr. Pope visited Florida in 1909, and so impressed was he with the climate, beauty and natural resources of the State, that in 1911 he brought his family to Winter Haven and established his home there, the city at that time having a population of 400.

For a number of years Mr. Pope successfully conducted a real estate business, and the year following his arrival in Florida he became one of the founders of the town of Lake Wales. With few exceptions he handled all the real estate sales in that community during the first four years of its existence.

Mr. Pope is known throughout this section for his progressive spirit, and he has co-operated whole-heartedly with the civic work. He was largely instrumental in securing good roads for the county, organized and was president of the Good Roads Association which was responsible for putting over the $1,500,000 bond issue in 1914. He was also president of the No-Fence League of Polk County.

Mr. Pope has owned from time to time many fine citrus groves, and served for years as director of the Lucerne Park Fruit Association, builders of the famous Lucerne grove. He was one of the workers with the Committee of Fifty which made the citrus fruit clearing house a possibility.

In 1923 he saw one of his cherished dreams come true when the handsome Haven Hotel, of which he was promoter, was erected.

Mr. Pope and Esther Malcolmson were married in Minnesota, and they have four children: R. D. (Dick), Inez (wife of Thad Hallinan, publicity director of the citrus fruit clearing house), Malcolm, and Louise.

OSCAR J. POPE

O. J. POPE was born at Monticello, Georgia, November 11, 1871, the son of Capt. Miller Woodson and Mary Jane (Hooks) Pope. His father was Captain of Company B 44th Georgia Regiment and served throughout the Civil War, having been wounded twice in battle.

After acquiring his public school education in the town of his birth, Mr. Pope came to Florida when he was 21 years of age, settling in Lake County, where he engaged in truck farming for five years, going to Lee County, in 1897, where he was similarly engaged for two years.

Mr. Pope settled in Lakeland in 1899 where for eighteen years he was in the strawberry business on a large scale. The last few years he has given his attention to road contracting.

Since coming to Lakeland Mr. Pope has always been active in political affairs, having served as councilman for eight years under the old form of government, and has been city commissioner for four years, serving on the Board when the commissioner-manager form of government was adopted.

He has been prominently identified with the school interests of the county, having served on the local board for two years, during which period three fine school buildings were erected at Lakeland, and is now serving his second year as member of the County School Board. Four school buildings have been built in the Lakeland district since he has been on the County Board.

Mr. Pope is a leader in church affairs, being Superintendent of the Myrtle Street Methodist Sunday School at Lakeland for the past fifteen years; a steward of the church for the same period and the only district steward since the church was organized.

He was married June 15, 1898, in Lee County to Walton Colbert. They have five children: Fanny, Miller, Grace, Louella and James. Mr. Pope built a home at 846 North Massachusetts avenue where the family have resided the past 26 years.

JAMES W. PORTER

Among the younger business men of the county who are making successful strides in the business life of this section is J. W. Porter, of Bartow. He was born at Ripley, Tennessee, July 11, 1899, the son of James A. and Fidelia (Woollen) Porter. The former is a retired doctor of medicine.

J. W. Porter was educated in his native State, and graduated from Columbia Military College and the University of Tennessee. He came to St. Petersburg in 1925, and removed to Bartow the following year. He purchased the Ford Agency and handles Fords, Fordsons and Lincolns. This is the largest business of its kind in the city.

Mr. Porter attended the Central Officers' Training School during the war, and was stationed at Camp Gordon. He is a member of the American Legion.

LEON PRINE

LEON PRINE, recently elected to the State Legislature, was born August 3, 1878, at Kathleen, this county, the son of Henry Alfred and Katherine Prine. His father was a North Carolinian, his mother was a native Floridian.

After acquiring his education in the schools of Kathleen, Mr. Prine engaged in farming, moving to Mulberry in 1898 where he engaged in the phosphate business for a period of eighteen years. He has been eminently successful as a real estate operator, having large holdings in Polk and DeSoto counties, and also large orange interests. For the past 20 years he has lived at Fort Meade.

Mr. Prine is one of the county's favorite sons who perhaps has as many friends as he has acquaintances. His jovial manner brightens all with whom he comes in contact, and did much to pave the way for him to the State Legislature.

Mr. Prine is a Knight of Pythias, a Mason, Shriner, D. O. K. K. and is a member of the Methodist church. He was married at Mulberry to Annie L. Ross. Four children were born to this union: Inez, Louis, Margaret and Gertrude.

HENRY E. PRITCHETT

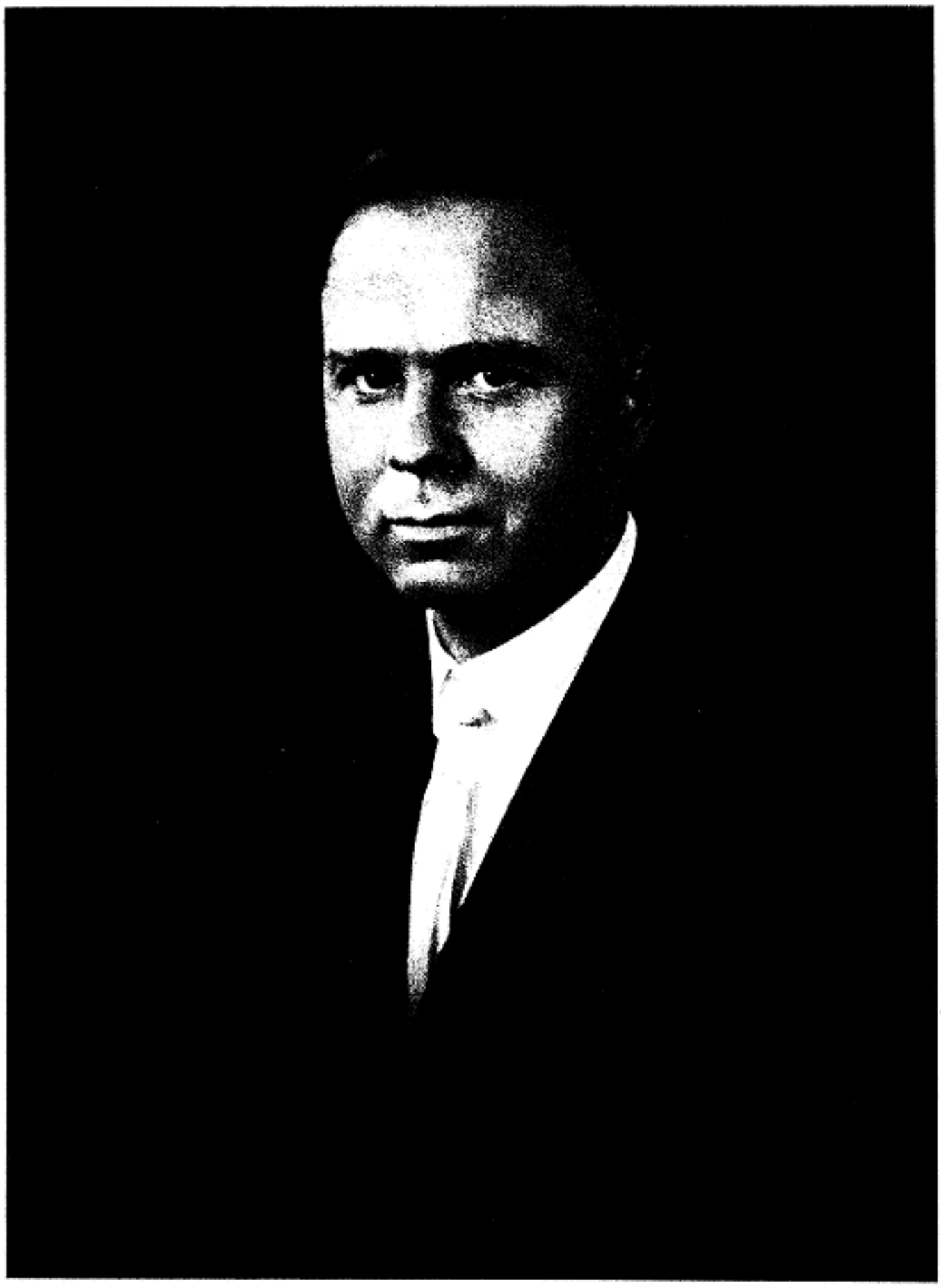
H. E. PRITCHETT, retired naval stores operator, was born in Brunswick county, North Carolina, in 1863, and attended the schools of his native State and of Georgia.

Mr. Pritchett entered the business in which he attained success when quite a young man. His application and energy won for him recognition, and in February, 1906, he was elected president of the Hillman-Sutherland Company, at that time the largest producers of naval stores in the world.

Mr. Pritchett resided in Jacksonville for ten years, and in 1915 removed to Lakeland. During his residence here he has been largely interested in the fruit industry, owning a 40-acre grove in Lakeland and 80 acres at Leesburg. He disposed of his interests in the naval stores business seven years ago.

He is a member of the Masonic order, Egypt Temple Shrine, Knights of Pythias and Elks.

Mr. Pritchett and Effie McRae, daughter of Daniel McRae, of McRae, Ga., for whom the town was named, were married October 14, 1901. Mrs. Pritchett, one of the most beloved women of the county, died at her home in Lakeland this spring. Their children are Elizabeth (Mrs. Maurice V. Dunavant), of Charlotte,



D. D. Manuson

North Carolina; William H., Thelma (Mrs. V. H. Miller), Effie and Charles, all of Lakeland.

The Pritchett residence, located on South Florida avenue, was completed last year and is one of the handsomest in the city.

J. B. PYLANT, SR.

Although not born in the county, J. B. Pylant, Sr., claims the distinction of being one of the oldest citizens, in point of residence, in this section. A native of Tampa, born June 7, 1860, he removed with his family the following year to Homeland, which was then a part of Hillsborough County.

He is a son of Robert N. and Susan Pylant. The former, who came to the State for his health, was a Baptist minister and a carpenter. He served on the county school board in the early days, and was otherwise prominently identified with the civic and moral welfare of his community, exerting a strong influence in the cause of prohibition. J. B. Pylant's maternal grandfather was commander of the Home Guards at Fort Meade during the Indian wars, and was killed in action.

Mr. Pylant has been engaged in farming, fruit-growing and cattle-raising. He developed a fine grove three miles south of Alturas, which property he originally homesteaded, and which he has since disposed of. He is now the owner of a fifty-acre bearing grove which is located six miles south of Alturas.

Mr. Pylant has been a resident of Bartow for many years, his father having proposed the name for that city, honoring the Confederate commander, Francis S. Bartow. Mr. Pylant was a well-known cattle man of the county for some time, but is now out of this business.

He is an ex-county commissioner, and for eight years was school supervisor for the district south of Alturas. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Masonic order, a member of the Blue Lodge.

Mr. Pylant was wed to Molly McAulay, representative of a pioneer Fort Meade family. Their children are S. L., George R., J. B., Jr., who is vice-president and cashier of the Polk County National Bank; Sue (Mrs. T. D. Felton), and Alice (Mrs. Charles Brown).

JOHN DERIEUX RAULERSON

Derieux Raulerson, clerk of the Circuit Court, is a Polk County product. He was born May 8, 1887, near Lakeland, the son of D. A. and Dicy Raulerson. His father was also born in this section, the grandfather settling in what is now Polk County about 1854.

Mr. Raulerson was educated in the local schools, and taught for two or three years. In 1913 he entered the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court as deputy clerk and held that position until 1920 when he was elected clerk; he was re-elected in 1924 and in 1928 without opposition in the primary on all these occasions. At this time it is estimated that there are four times as many documents recorded annually as when he assumed office. The necessity for a larger office force serves as an index to the growth of this department; there were three or four in this office when Mr. Raulerson became connected with it, seven when he became clerk, and at this time a staff of twenty-five people is employed to handle the ever-growing mass of

work. Last year the system of recording was changed, and the office is known as one of the most efficient in the country.

During the war Mr. Raulerson served over-seas as a non-commissioned officer in the 316th Heavy Field Artillery.

He is a member of the Kiwanis Club, K. of P., Odd Fellows and Woodmen of the World.

He was married at Lakeland July 21, 1920, to Thelma Poe, and they have one son, J. D., Jr.

ANGELO RAYMONDO

ANGELO RAYMONDO, who has made his home in Lakeland his entire life, was born in that city March 9, 1897, the son of Salvedo and Elise (Legler) Raymondo. Interesting facts concerning the family history and early days in this county may be learned by reading the sketch of his late father, which appears elsewhere in this volume.

Upon the completion of his education, which was obtained in the local schools and finished at Stetson University, Mr. Raymondo formed a connection with the State Bank, remaining with that institution two years. After this he was with the First National Bank, where he was teller for a period of seven years, giving efficient and courteous service.

Since the death of his father, which occurred in August, 1923, Mr. Raymondo has devoted himself to the management of his estate, which includes much valuable property.

Mr. Raymondo is a member of the Masonic order, Elks and Modern Woodmen, and is a steward of the First Methodist church.

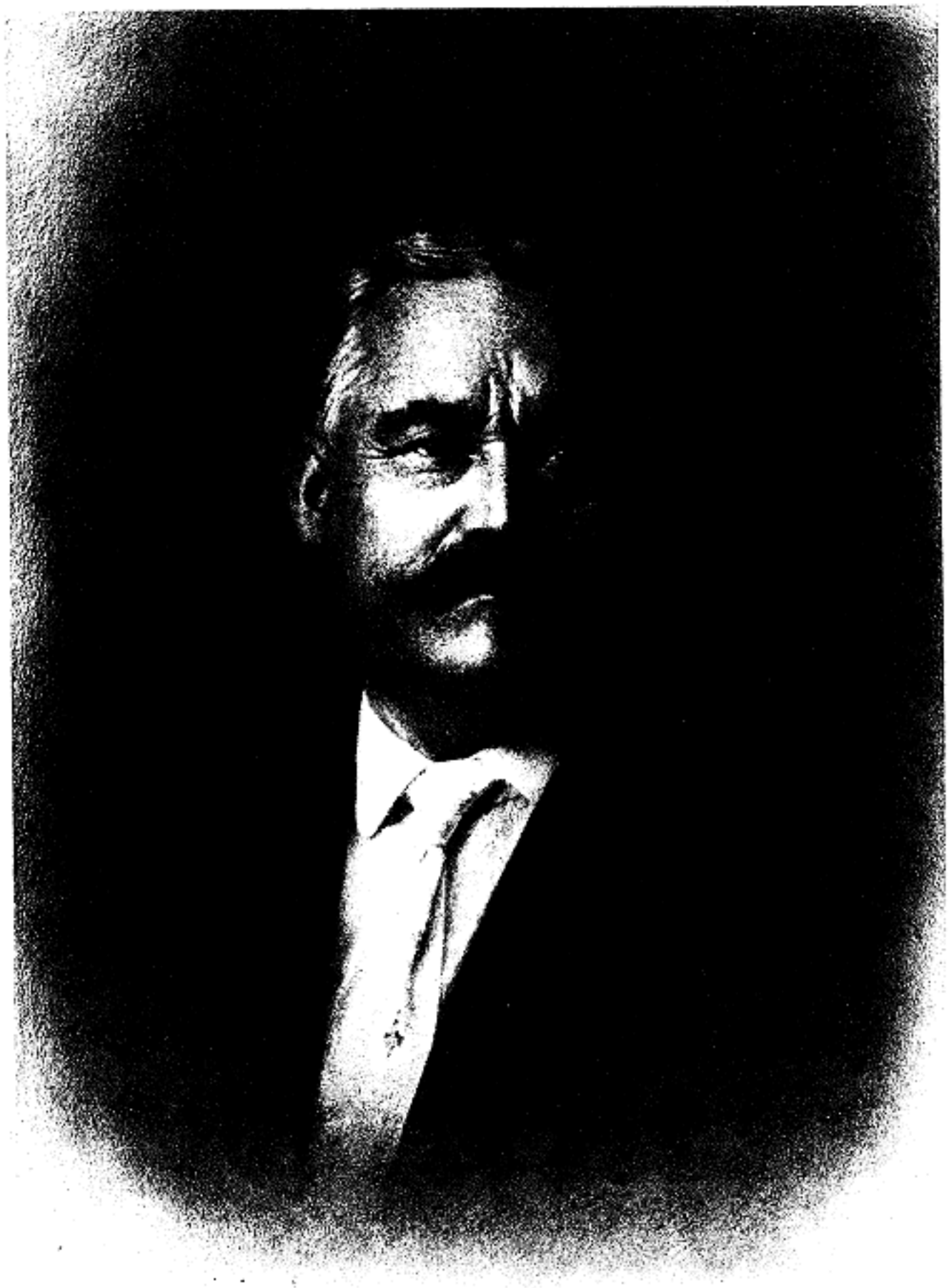
He was wed to Zannie Peeples in Bartow, September 21, 1917. They have two daughters, Mary Elise and Elizabeth Ann. The Raymondo home is one of the handsomest in Lakeland, located in Casa Bella.

SALVEDO RAYMONDO

A resumé of the life of Salvedo Raymondo affords an excellent example of the success that may be attained by hard work and a steadfast adherence to high principles. Mr. Raymondo came to this country when a boy, with little or no capital, and at the time of his death in August, 1923, was one of the wealthiest men of Lakeland.

Mr. Raymondo was born in Naples, Italy, and was educated in the schools of that country, coming to America at the age of 16 years. He remained one year in Baltimore before coming to Florida, at which time he resided for several months in Tampa. Mr. Raymondo, about 42 years ago, walked from Plant City to Lakeland, and opened a little store in the locality of what is now Pine street. Here he had a varied stock, gradually expanding until 1904 when he built the Raymondo building, which occupies a block on Kentucky avenue. This structure, which contains eight stores and 48 offices, was the largest building in the town at the time, and is one of the most important now.

During the last few years of his lifetime, Mr. Raymondo devoted his attention to the real estate business, in which he was very successful. Among other projects, he owned one of the largest groves in the Lakeland Highlands.



S Rajamouli

He was a member of the Woodmen of the World, and worshipped at the Catholic church. Mr. Raymondo and Elise Legler were married in Lakeland, November 25, 1874. Their son, Angelo, resides in Lakeland.

GEORGE H. REDFIELD

GEORGE H. REDFIELD was born in Brooklyn, New York, the son of James H. and Katherine (Herschel) Redfield. His paternal ancestors came from England and settled in Connecticut, while his mother's family, who were from Holland, were early settlers of New York.

After graduating from the Polytechnic Institute at Brooklyn, Mr. Redfield engaged in the paint business in New York, and later in the fur business with the John Ruszit Fur Company. For seventeen years, from 1904 until 1921, Mr. Redfield was connected with the American Sheet and Tin Plate Co., at Pittsburgh.

Having owned a large orange grove in Polk County since 1911, Mr. Redfield naturally had an unusual interest in the State and in 1921 became a permanent resident, locating at Bartow. His grove interests are at Alturas, where he first owned a grove of ten acres, but now has 300 acres in groves. He bought the original town site of Alturas and developed it. He assisted in establishing a fine packing house in Alturas, affiliated with the Florida Citrus Exchange.

Mr. Redfield is particularly interested in good roads, and since taking up his residence in the county has been an active worker in their development.

He is a Mason, a member of Tuscan Lodge No. 6, and is a member of the Episcopal church. He was married to Mary McCord in Brooklyn in 1884, and they have one son, Richard S. Redfield, of East Orange, New Jersey. Mrs. Redfield is very active in church and social work in and about Bartow.

DON REGISTER

DON REGISTER, a leading lawyer of Winter Haven and chairman of the County School Board, was born at Dover, Hillsborough County, Florida, January 14, 1881, the son of Ivy and Mattie (Alderman) Register. The former came to this State from Georgia and the latter was born and reared near Plant City. Don Register attended the schools of Hillsborough County and graduated from the Florida State Normal School and from the Peabody College for Teachers, and possessing energy and ambition, pursued the study of law at home.

He taught school four years, and when admitted to the bar in 1907, began practice at Fort Myers, where he remained four years. He spent nine years thereafter at Jacksonville, and in 1921 removed to Winter Haven, where he carries on a general civil practice. He is president of the Polk County Bar Association, and is a member of the American, State, County and local associations. He belongs to the Exchange Club and is a Mason and a Shriner.

Mr. Register has been chairman of the County School Board for the past two years; during this time many new school buildings have been erected, the administration of schools greatly improved and finances have been put on a much more substantial basis.

Mr. Register is a well-known figure in the financial life of the county. He is a director of the First State Bank of Winter Haven and the State Bank of Lake Alfred, and owns three valuable citrus groves.

In 1908 Mr. Register and Frances Kelsoe were married in Louisiana. They have five children: Don L., Billie, Frances, Scott and Nell.

JAMES MITCHELL REID

JAMES MITCHELL REID was born in Scotland, March 11, 1859, the son of John and Janet (Mitchell) Reid. He traces his ancestry back to Percy Reid, of the Knights of the Round Table. With his parents, Mr. Reid removed from Scotland in 1870, going first to Ontario, Canada. His father died in 1878, and the family removed to the United States in 1884, living first at Chicago and later at Elgin, Illinois.

Mr. Reid was educated in the schools of Ontario and Toronto, and also attended a medical college in Detroit. Mr. Reid was engaged in the wholesale carriage business in Ontario, and later was in the manufacture of farming machinery in Toronto, in which connection he moved to Winnepeg in 1904. He was in that city for seventeen years as western manager for the Ontario Wind Engine & Pump Company of Toronto.

Retiring from active business, Mr. Reid came to Florida in 1918, locating first in Walton county. In 1923 he became a resident of Lakeland, engaging in the real estate business. Some very large deals have been consummated through Mr. Reid's office, and in May, 1925, the office hung up a high record of sales to the amount of $248,150.

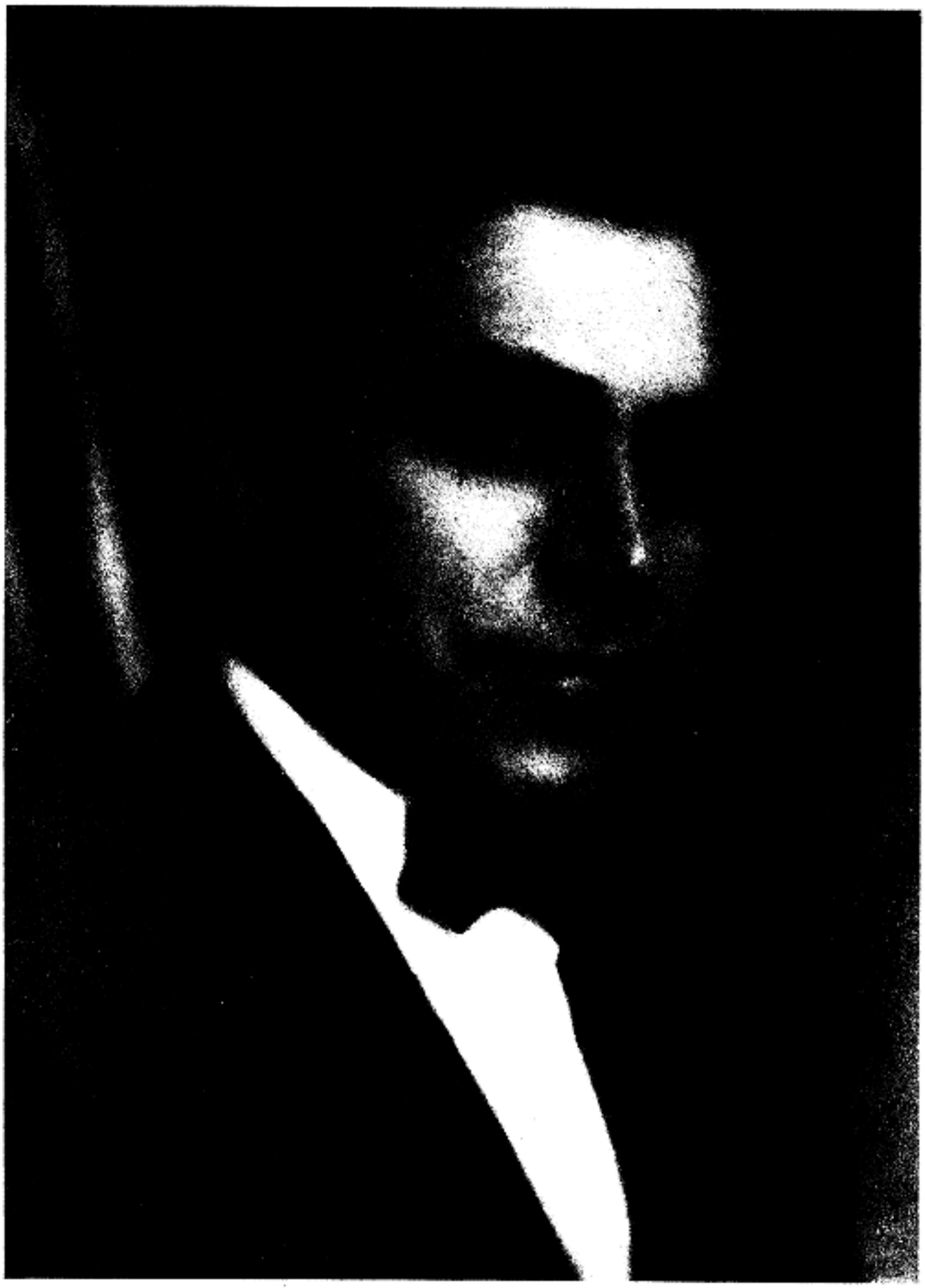
Mr. Reid looks upon January 12, 1928, as a red letter day in his career, as it was on that day that he became a naturalized citizen of the United States—a matter of considerable pride to him.

During the World War Mr. Reid was one of Canada's active workers in Victory Loan drives. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and teacher of the senior men's bible class.

He was married July 7, 1886, to Sarah Jane Hulse, of London, Ontario. Four children were born to this union, three of whom are deceased. Their son, Roy Hulse Reid, is connected with his father in business, being in charge of the insurance department. He has two sons, twelve and fifteen years of age.

WILLIAM FREDERICK REID

Among the prominent young business men of Lakeland, whose rise has been rapid, steady and substantial, none has a more outstanding record than that of William Frederick Reid, well-known banker of Lakeland. Coming to that city scarcely more than a boy in 1911, he accepted a place as bookkeeper in the State Bank of Lakeland. In a short time his ability and industry won for him a promotion to the position of assistant cashier of the institution. Later he became cashier, handling the responsibilities of that important post in a remarkably capable manner for several years, or until the recent reorganization which resulted in the creation of the Lakeland State Bank & Trust Company, when, in recognition of his splendid service in the past, he was made vice-president and cashier of the new institution.



Mr. Reid's unusual capacity as a business man and financier attracted public attention, and the people of the community, desirous of enlisting these qualities in an administration of their public affairs, drafted him into service by electing him city commissioner in October, 1927, during his absence from the city. His associates on the commission chose him as their leader, and he is at present mayor-commissioner of the city of Lakeland.

William Frederick Reid was born at Jacksboro, Tenn., August 15, 1890, the son of J. Henderson and Mary Jane (Lindsey) Reid. His father was a Virginian, his mother a native of Tennessee. He comes of a distinguished family, his father having been a prominent attorney and his grandfather a noted minister of the Baptist faith.

Mr. Reid received his primary education at Baker-Himel Preparatory School, Knoxville, later attending the University of Tennessee, American University at Harriman, Tenn., and Maryville College, Maryville, Tenn. After completing his education he held a position with the East Tennessee National Bank, of Knoxville, deciding, however, to try his fortune in Florida about the time he attained his majority.

With the entry of the United States into the World War, he enlisted in the navy, reporting for duty at Key West. With this slight intermission, he has been almost continuously "on the job" with the State Bank and its successor, the Lakeland State Bank & Trust Co.

Mr. Reid has also been prominent in the fraternal life of the city, being a member of the Masonic order, Shriners, Knights Templar, Elks and Modern Woodmen of the World. He has the unusual distinction of having served the Lakeland Lodge of Elks as Exalted Ruler two terms, an honor never accorded to any other head of the lodge.

Mr. Reid was married September 4, 1915, to Ellie Kibler, daughter of A. B. Kibler, of Lakeland. There are two lovely children, W. F., Jr., and Mary Louise.

DR. H. MERCER RICHARDS

Merited success has marked the professional career of Dr. H. Mercer Richards, one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Lakeland, who was born in Crawfordsville, Georgia, the son of Quintus and Florence (Mercer) Richards.

Dr. Richards attended the schools of Sandersville, Georgia, later the Atlanta School of Medicine, and in 1907 graduated from the Southern School of Pharmacy of Atlanta. He graduated in medicine from Emory College in 1909.

After his graduation, Dr. Richards served as House Physician and Surgeon of the Grady Municipal Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia. Coming to Florida he located at Nichols where he practiced medicine until 1914 when he established his residence in Lakeland, engaging in the practice of his profession. He also owned the City Drug Store, which he later sold.

Dr. Richards has a large general practice and is a skilled surgeon. Aside from his professional career he has been successful in several real estate transactions. His home on South Success avenue is one of the handsomest in the city, besides which he has other valuable property.

Dr. Richards is a Rotarian, a member of the City, County, State and National Medical Associations; is a K. of P., being past Chancellor of the local lodge; and is an Elk, a Mason, and a Shriner. He is a director of the State Bank of Lakeland.

Dr. and Mrs. Richards, the latter Stella Emily Nesbitt before her marriage, have two sons, William Thomas and Hugh Morgan.

NORMAN A. RIGGINS

NORMAN A. RIGGINS, pioneer resident of Lakeland, and whose parents, M. P. and Fanny J. Riggins, were among the town's earliest settlers, was born in Montgomery County, Tenn., September 25, 1858. He spent his young manhood in Kentucky and in southeast Missouri, and made his first visit to Florida in 1882. Coming before the advent of the railroad, he had many interesting experiences getting to Polk County. Two years later, when the railroad penetrated this section, he returned to the county, locating at Lakeland where he remained for three years. In 1895 he brought his family and has since been a leading factor in the growth and development of Lakeland and its environs.

The Riggins family have had a prominent part in Lakeland's history. Mr. Riggins' father, M. P. Riggins, came to the town in 1884 and bought eighty acres of land in what is now about the center of the city, for $7 per acre. The original Riggins home, built over forty years ago, still stands at the corner of Tennessee avenue and Lemon street, then one of the most pretentious homes in the county. M. P. Riggins, father of N. A. Riggins, was one of the town's first merchants, the Riggins & Waggoner store at the corner of Main street and Tennessee avenue being the trading center for the citizens of northern Polk.

When Norman Riggins came to the then small village in 1895 he engaged in farming, and had a small sawmill on the shores of Lake Morton, which he later moved to the intersection of Florida avenue and the railroad. His sawmill and novelty works were the beginning of the Lakeland Manufacturing Company, now one of the city's largest industrial concerns.

For a time Mr. Riggins was engaged in the mercantile firm of Riggins & Waggoner, but sold his interests later. In later years he has devoted his energies to his large property interests, and has built over forty homes and various business buildings on his own property.

Mr. Riggins has always taken an active part in civic affairs—particularly in the city's early development. He was one of the bond trustees elected to supervise the installation of the water works system of Lakeland; was bond trustee for two other issues of importance; was member of the old city council for two terms; member of the local and county school boards, the former for many years, and has seen Lakeland grow from a mere village of 300 souls to the present city of 25,000 inhabitants.

Among the less important, though quite interesting events in Mr. Riggins' career as a Lakeland citizen, it might be mentioned that he hauled the first load of clay used in making Lakeland's streets, and that he and Mrs. Riggins owned the second and third bicycles ever brought to the town.



Paul Robeson

Mr. Riggins was married to Sallie Richardson. Three children were born to this union: L. Wallace, Pattie (Mrs. J. W. Darracott), and Fannie. Mr. Riggins and family are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

JOHN L. ROBINSON

JOHN L. ROBINSON, successful farmer and county commissioner, was born in Leon County, February 26, 1864. He is the son of Larkin and Sarah (Chason) Robinson, the former a North Carolinian by birth, and the latter a native of this State.

Mr. Robinson was educated in the Leon County schools, and for many years was a farmer and turpentine operator in that section. He represented Leon county in the Legislature two terms, having been elected in 1903, and re-elected in 1905.

He removed to Christina in 1908 and five years later settled at Medulla, where he has since made his home. He has a farm at Chicora and one at Medulla, and owns much property in Leon county.

Mr. Robinson has been county commissioner for 12 years, representing District No. 1, which includes the majority of the phosphate mines in the county.

He was married February 18, 1887, to Lilla N. Levy, of Leon county, and they have one son, Richard B.

REID ROBSON

REID ROBSON was born at Lake City, Florida, April 25, 1872, the son of Wiley and Susan M. A. Robson. Mr. Robson's father settled in Lakeland in 1884 and was a pioneer in growing strawberries for commercial purposes in Polk County.

Upon the completion of his education, received in the schools of Lakeland, Mr. Robson followed in his father's footsteps, engaging in the growing of strawberries and in cattle-raising. For sixteen years he shipped cattle to Cuba. He also has engaged in land operations on a large scale. He was always interested in political matters, and represented Polk County in the Florida Legislature two terms, from 1915 to 1917. He has served the county for the past six years as county commissioner of District No. 5, and is one of the organizers of the State organization of County Commissioners, and he was one of the promoters of hard-surfaced highways in Polk County.

Mr. Robson always takes an active interest in all public matters, having the time and means to devote to same, and has given freely of his time and money to further any cause he felt would be for the betterment of his town and county as a whole.

Mr. Robson is a 32nd degree Mason, Elk, Shriner and a member of the Eastern Star. He is also a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Robson was married September 16, 1899, to Alice Bryant, daughter of the late J. Wesley Bryant, one of the pioneer citizens of the county. They have six children, Holly, Elma, Bernice (Mrs. C. G. Knight), Wayma, Iva May and Dorris. They also have two grandchildren, Holly Robson, Jr., and Charles G. Knight.

DR. J. H. ROSS

DR. J. H. Ross, moving spirit in the founding of the Florida Citrus Exchange, and one who accomplished more for co-operative marketing of citrus fruit than any man in the State, was born May 17, 1844, in Rockingham county, Virginia, the son of Rev. David and Eliza Ann (Whitsell) Ross. His death at Winter Haven, December 29, 1925, removed from the county one of its greatest developers, and one who enjoyed the highest esteem and admiration of all with whom he came in contact.

Dr. Ross moved with his parents to Indiana when a young lad, and when nineteen years of age enlisted in the Union Army as a member of Company K, 115th Indiana Infantry. At the close of the Civil War he studied medicine in the University of Michigan, and later graduated from the St. Louis Medical College in 1873. He practiced his profession in Kokomo, Ind., for twenty years with great success. As early as 1895 he began spending the winters at Winter Haven, later moving there permanently.

In all the years Dr. Ross made his home in Polk County he was recognized as a leader in all progressive movements, particularly the citrus industry. In recognition of his services to the latter industry, the Florida Citrus Exchange granted him the degree of Co-Operative Service at the time of his death. He was a splendid orator, and was in demand as a public speaker when any forward movement was to be presented to the people. Particularly effective work was accomplished by Dr. Ross when the county bond issue for good roads was being agitated, his presentation of the matter in addresses throughout the county, being in large measure responsible for the issue of $1,500,000 for paved highways throughout the county, being passed.

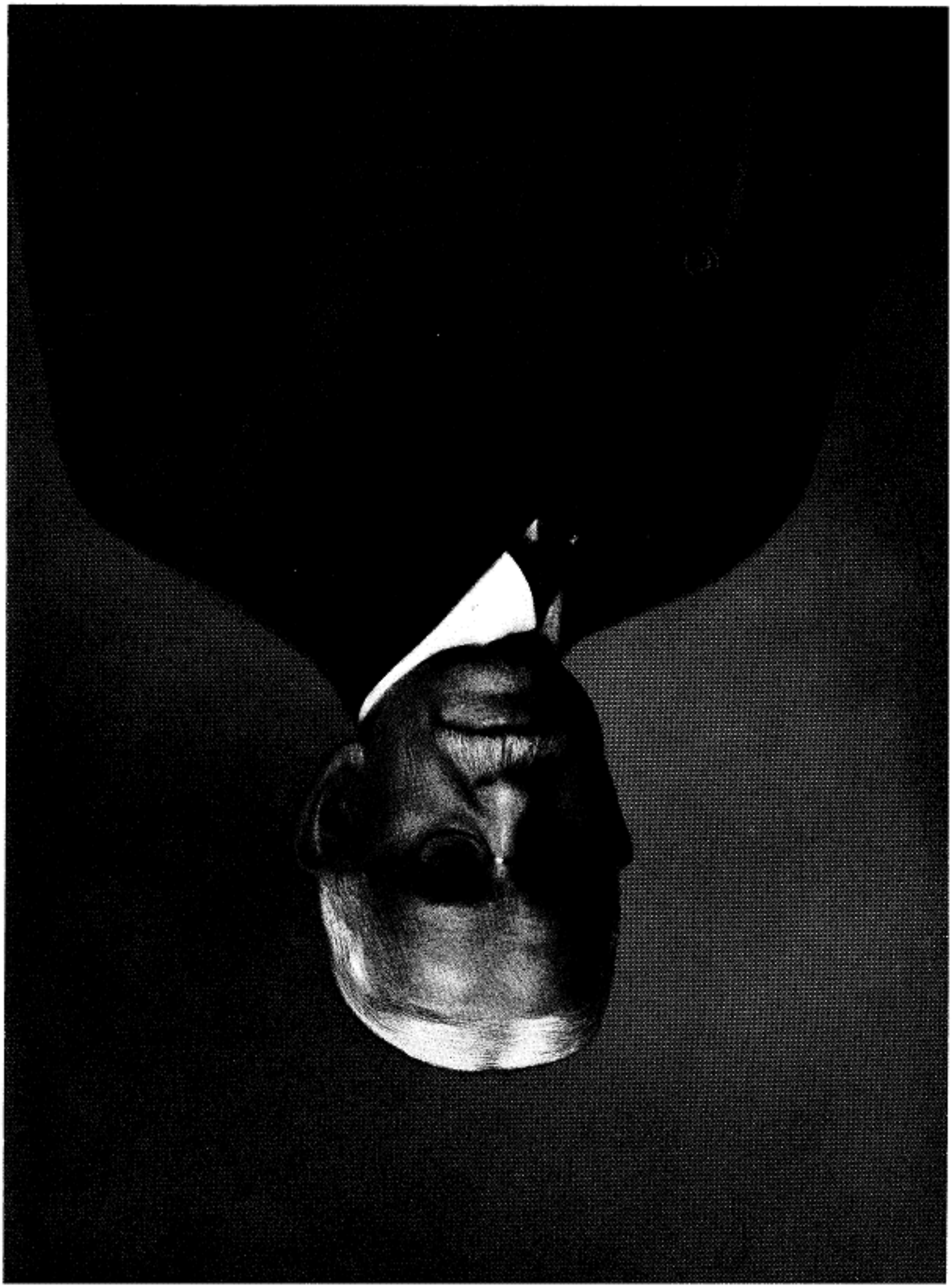
Dr. Ross was instrumental in having the Seaboard Air Line Railway enter Winter Haven, and was a leader in many other movements that have redounded to the benefit of that community.

Dr. Ross owned several fine groves, but had sold practically all of his holdings before his death. He was vice-president of the Snell National Bank, president of the Florida Citrus Exchange, president of the Exchange Supply Company, president of the Winter Haven Hotel Company, a director of the Florence Villa Citrus Growers' Association, of the Lucerne Growers' Association, the Growers' Loan and Guarantee Company, and was a director and vice-president of the Florida Grower Publishing Company.

Dr. Ross was married in June, 1875, to Mary M. Drake, of New York State. Two children were born by a former marriage, Walter H. Ross, and Mrs. John B. Trimmer. Mrs. Ross continues to make her home in Winter Haven.

MORRIS R. ROTH

MORRIS R. ROTH, progressive Lakeland citizen, was born in Austria-Hungary in 1865, the son of Myer and Rachel Roth. He came to America when twenty years of age, having prior to that time followed the shoemaking trade in Europe. On coming to New York in 1885 Mr. Roth was connected with the nationally known firms of Hanan & Son, also Cousins'. He was foreman of a slipper factory



in New York, and so proficient was he at the shoemaking trade he later established a business which made a specialty of shoes for cripples.

Mr. Roth made a fortune in New York City in the wholesale leather business, having at one time had five stores in that city. This fortune was used in traveling all over Europe seeking health for his wife, who is now deceased.

Later he chose Pittsburg as his base of operations and there opened a wholesale leather business, amassing another fortune, which he lost during the war.

In 1918 Mr. Roth came to Lakeland where he opened a store, specializing in government goods, which he turned into a dollar store, later engaging in the shoe business again.

Mr. Roth is an expert shoemaker, an artist in his line, and since coming to Lakeland has enjoyed a splendid business. He owns a nice home and other valuable property, and is one of Lakeland's substantial citizens.

He was first married to Lena Strauss, now deceased. He later married Esther Bokur, of New York. Mr. Roth has five children: Max Roy Roth, Julius Roth, who is a lieutenant in College Park Military Academy in Atlanta; Leonard Roth, George Roth, and Mrs. Racz, an only daughter.

GEORGE W. SAFFORD

GEORGE W. SAFFORD was born at Augusta, Maine, September 1, 1893, the son of Charles W. and De Elsa N. Safford. He represents an old New England family, the first members of which came to this country from Scotland.

Mr. Safford graduated from the High School at Augusta, and for some time thereafter was a newspaper reporter in that city. In 1922 he received his LL.B. degree at the Washington College of Law, and the day after he was admitted to the bar, began practicing. It was during his days at law school that he became secretary to Hon. Herbert J. Drane, member of Congress. He remained in this connection until December, 1927, when he resigned to devote his entire time to the practice of law.

Mr. Safford made a splendid record at college. He was president of the Senior class, speaker for the Junior class, and during his first year was on the prize debating team. He was one of the organizers of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Chapter of the Sigma Nu Phi legal fraternity, and was the first delegate from his chapter to the National Convention. Mr. Safford is an ardent Democrat, and while in Maine took an active part in matters pertaining to the party. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Mr. Safford and Lucille Kinkaid were married June 26, 1924, at Washington, D. C. They have one daughter, Alice Fay, aged 2½ years.

Z. H. SANDERS

Z. H. SANDERS was born at Trenton, Gilchrist County (formerly Alachua County), Florida, October 9, 1902, the son of Albert L. and Edna Elizabeth (Gay) Sanders. His ancestors were Scotch-Irish. His parents were early settlers of this part of the State, coming from Troy, Alabama, about fifty years ago.

He graduated from Trenton High School, later attending and graduating from Georgia Normal College & Business Institute, Douglas, Georgia. From

June, 1921, to May, 1922, he was connected with Consolidated Grocery Company, Jacksonville, Florida, wholesale grocers. From May, 1922, to January 1, 1928, he was connected with Telfair Stockton & Company, Jacksonville, Florida, coming to Lakeland in 1925 as manager of the Lakeland branch of that firm, continuing in that capacity until January 1, 1928, when he established his own office, handling real estate, mortgage loans and insurance and continuing as local representative of Telfair Stockton & Company and as mortgage loan representative of New York Life Insurance Company.

He is a member of the board of directors of the Lakeland Lions Club, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and affiliated with the Southside Baptist church. He is also assistant secretary of the Lakeland Real Estate Board.

Mr. Sanders married Miss Sarah Stephenson of Hartselle, Alabama, on June 5, 1927.

BENJAMIN B. SCARBOROUGH

BENJAMIN B. SCARBOROUGH was born at Scarborough, Tennessee, the son of R. H. and Anna Scarborough. The town of his birth was named for his grandfather, who founded it, and by this graceful act the honored name of Scarborough will be known and respected not only by the present but succeeding generations.

Mr. Scarborough was educated in the schools of Tennessee, later attending Rhone College and the Law School of the University of Tennessee.

For several years Mr. Scarborough was president of the Southern Marble & Stone Company of Georgia. He sold his interests in this concern and came to Polk County in 1919, locating at Frostproof, where he has been one of that section's leading developers and most substantial citizens. The condition of his health brought him to the State, and since locating at Frostproof he has found both health and success in many large business undertakings.

When he first came to Frostproof he confined his activities to orange growing, and later established the West Frostproof Packing Company, which has enjoyed a successful business. The officials of the American Fruit Growers' Association own a considerable interest in the Packing Company, and they will soon enlarge the plant.

Mr. Scarborough laid out the town of West Frostproof, and built and is the owner of all its business property. He is the President of the West Frostproof Land and Oil Company, which is now drilling for oil at West Frostproof. Mr. Scarborough states that he started the oil well drilling in West Frostproof and that as a result of discoveries made in drilling the oil well, the State geological map is being considerably changed.

In addition to his other large interests, Mr. Scarborough is owner of the Ridge Cigar Company, located at West Frostproof.

Mr. Scarborough was married in Tennessee to Mary McCarth. Four children were born to this union: Nellie (Mrs. C. C. Dempsey), Ralph, Zed and Georgia.

J. L. SCHMIDT

JOHN L. SCHMIDT was born January 19, 1883, at Steelton, Pennsylvania, the son of John and Margaret Schmidt. His parents were German born, and Mr. Schmidt received his education in the schools of the old country, graduating as an electrical engineer.

After completing his education in Germany, Mr. Schmidt returned to the States and settled at Dayton, Ohio, where he was in the automobile and bicycle business for several years.

In 1919 Mr. Schmidt came to Davenport, establishing the first garage in that town. There were only three automobiles in Davenport at that time and the population numbered 62. As the community grew, his business likewise expanded, and in 1926 he built a fine new garage. He is the Studebaker agent for that section.

Mr. Schmidt has served as member of the City Council of Davenport for two terms, and is a member of the Business Men's Association. He is thoroughly interested in all matters of civic development and importance.

Mr. Schmidt was married July 28, 1912, to Anna Stamm at Dayton, Ohio. They have two children: Northington M. and Mary Catherine.

ANTON SCHNEIDER

ANTON SCHNEIDER, whose achievements have been many, was born at Summit Hill, suburb of Philadelphia, in 1871, the son of Anthony and Sarah (Winterstelsa) Schneider.

After graduating as a civil engineer from Lehigh University, Mr. Schneider was with the Union Pacific Railway until 1899, when, after having served in the Spanish-American War, he went to New York City and engaged in building elevated railroads. His construction work was for the Manhattan Railway of New York. Thence he went to South America as chief engineer in the construction of the Sierra de Pasco Railway in the Andes mountains. One year later he returned to New York, where he was again engaged in subway construction, later being engineer in charge of construction of the East River terminals in New York for the Interborough Rapid Transit Co.

In 1908 Mr. Schneider came to Polk County as manager of the American Agricultural Chemical Company's mine at Pierce. Later he supervised the construction of the Amalgamated Phosphate plant at Brewster, managing same until 1919, when he retired from active business.

His retirement was not for long, however, as he was prevailed upon shortly thereafter to become city manager of Bartow. He held this position one year when he was appointed city manager of Lakeland, which office he held for 4½ years, serving ably and well. During his incumbency, Lakeland's largest and most progressive development became a reality—the city's fine municipal buildings, including her magnificent city hall, auditorium, library, hospital and athletic field being projects initiated by Mr. Schneider. Bonds were voted and the improvements made during his tenure of office.

A busy life, a life of accomplishment, has been Mr. Schneider's, and that others of his family are likewise leaders, though in a different vocation, is evidenced by the fact that his brother, Herman Schneider, is president of the University of Cincinnati, one of the leading institutions of learning in the United States.

Mr. Schneider is a Mason, and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He was married in Utah to Mary Robinson, and they have two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, both graduates of Smith College with M.A. degrees. The former is now a teacher at Temple University, and the latter is doing research work in Biology at the University of Maine. Mrs. Schneider is a prominent club woman of Polk County.

CARL E. SCHRIBER

CARL E. SCHRIBER was born December 18th, 1874, at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the son of Charles Schriber and Jennie E. Schriber, whose ancestors came direct from Germany to Wisconsin. After completing his public school education at Oshkosh, Mr. Schriber spent two years at the University of Wisconsin and two years at the Michigan College of Mines, completing the mining course in 1901.

Mr. Schriber's first employment was in Mexico where he served as mining engineer for various mining companies. Later he established a general mining and engineering business in Durango, Mexico, with a branch office in Torreon.

In 1912 he returned to the United States, going with the H. C. Doman Co. as construction engineer, manufacturing gas engines. He later was with the Vaughn Construction Co. engaged in building eight miles of railroad for the Norfolk Southern Railway. In 1904 he helped to construct the first power house on the Hillsborough river for the Tampa Electric Company.

Mr. Schriber came to Lakeland in 1925 and with Mr. Earle E. Baird established the firm of Baird & Schriber, Civil Engineers. Besides doing a general engineering business they specialize in blasting drainage ditches and canals with dynamite. They are also city engineers for the towns of Lake Stearns and Indian Rocks Beach.

During the World War Mr. Schriber entered the service at Fort Sheridan, Ill., and was commissioned 1st Lieutenant, assigned to the 159th Depot Brigade at Camp Taylor, Ky., where he was detailed to instruct recruits; he was promoted to a captaincy and after the armistice was sent to the Construction Division at Camp Knox where he was discharged October 31st, 1919.

Mr. Schriber is a member of the American Legion and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

W. W. SCOTT

W. W. SCOTT was born at Racine, Wisconsin, in 1877.

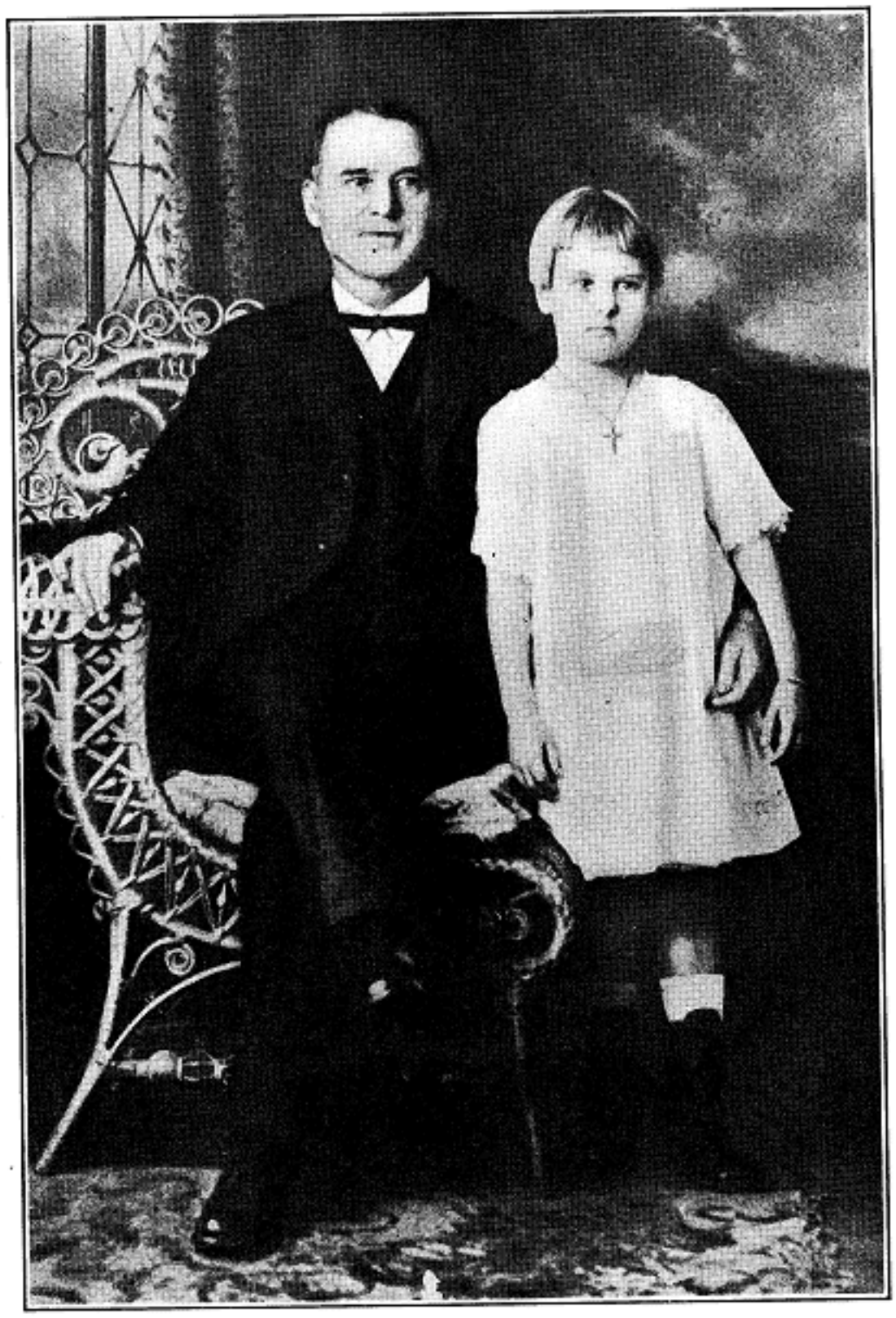
After completing his education in the schools of Racine, Mr. Scott represented the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, of Racine, and later was with a wholesale confectionery of that city.

In 1911 he came to Haines City where he and R. E. Philpot, together with A. B. Pickett, established the Plant & Land Food Company, Mr. Scott being secretary and treasurer of the company. This firm has large deposits of muck-peat at Dundee, in this county, and from this "Humite", a steamed, sterilized and bacterized humus is produced. The capacity of the plant is 40 tons per day.

Mr. Scott is active in civic matters, being ex-secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Haines City. He is at the present time secretary of the Rotary Club, and is a director of the Haines City State Bank. He is also trustee of the Badger Groves Company.

W. H. SHINN

W. H. SHINN, president of Imperial Products, Incorporated, was born at Alleghany, Pennsylvania. He attended the schools of that State, and graduated from Westminster College. His father, J. K. Shinn, obtained in England the information necessary for making Portland cement, and the knowledge was acquired



Geo. H. Singleton

by the subject of this sketch, who manufactured the first cement of this kind in the United States. The plant was established in 1876, and was located at Wampon, Pennsylvania. It was known as the Shinn Bros. Portland Cement Company, and for seven years Mr. Shinn was superintendent. Later, he was connected with the Mansfield Coal and Coke Co., of Carnegie, Pennsylvania, which was subsequently purchased by the Pittsburg Coal Company. For several years prior to his removal to Florida he operated independently as a coal dealer of Pittsburg.

Mr. Shinn came to Lake Alfred in 1921, and became interested in the growing of citrus fruits. He served his community two years as Mayor and has been a member of the Council. Largely due to his efforts, a system of waterworks has been installed, and during his term as Mayor, the white way was built. Mr. Shinn spent much of his time in Carnegie, Pa., working for civic betterment.

Mr. Shinn organized the Krystal Rok Stucco Company at Lake Alfred in 1925, the name of which has been changed to Imperial Products, Incorporated. This firm manufactures Venetian stucco and marble flooring, and carries a complete line of material in stock for builders. The project has been markedly successful, and does a large business all over the State. Mr. Shinn is vice-president of the Carnegie National Bank, and is prominent in financial circles of Pennsylvania and this State.

He and Inez L. Osborne were married in Pennsylvania 41 years ago. They have two children: Marie, wife of T. W. Greer, and Charles M., who is secretary and treasurer of the Imperial Products Company.

GEORGE W. SINGLETARY

George W. Singletary was born near Fort Meade, February 11, 1861, the son of Simpson and Martha Ann Singletary, who came to the State in 1850. He attended one of the county schools, located at Homeland, and had as his first teacher, Col. S. M. Sparkman, ex-congressman.

Mr. Singletary has devoted practically all of his life to farming and the growing of citrus fruits. In connection with the latter work he has served several years as President of the Homeland Citrus Growers' Association. Mr. Singletary is vice-president of the State Bank of Fort Meade, and was instrumental in the organization of that institution.

He is a large land owner, and has sold hundreds of acres of property—farms, groves and phosphate land.

From 1892 until 1900, Mr. Singletary was tax assessor of the county, and in 1892 was a delegate to the Democratic State convention, which nominated Mitchell for Governor. He is an ex-trustee of the Homeland schools, and is active in Chamber of Commerce work.

Mr. Singletary has been married twice. His first wife, Edith Boss, whom he married November 22, 1911, died August 8, 1917, and his second marriage was to Clara Miller, of Zanesville, Ohio, November 30, 1922. He has one daughter, Edith Elaine, by the first marriage.

JOHN O. SINGLETARY

J. O. SINGLETARY, representative of one of the oldest families of the county, was born near Fort Meade in 1885. He is a son of James W. and Laura A. Singletary, the former a farmer and stock man, who lived his entire life in this section. His great-grandparents were residents of Fort Meade, and were buried at Homeland.

Upon the completion of his education, which was received in the county school located south of Fort Meade, Mr. Singletary assisted his father with his farm. Since 1910 he has been engaged in growing and shipping citrus fruits. He has about 40 acres in groves, which are located in the Alturas section. Mr. Singletary is ably serving the county as Commissioner from District 2, and among other things has advocated the replacing of timber bridges and all wooden structures on paved highways with concrete.

He was married at Fort Meade October 8th, 1911, to Nora Dishong, and they have two children, Johnnie Ruth, aged three years, and James Edward, six months, Mr. Singletary is a Methodist and active member of the Business Men's Bible Class.

GRAY SINGLETON

GRAY SINGLETON was born in Gadsden, Alabama, April 28, 1890, the son of the late J. J. and Florence (Gray) Singleton. The year following his birth the family removed to Arcadia, and he attended the schools of that city, graduating from Emory University, Atlanta, with the degree of Ph.B.

For many years Mr. Singleton has been connected with the Tillman Phosphate Company, first as chemist and later superintendent. At this time he is acting as consulting chemist for plants in Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

Mr. Singleton is chemist for the Sealed Sunshine Corporation, which sells about 1,000 bottles of citrus fruit juice daily. For the past two years he has been doing chemical work for citrus growers of the county.

During the World War Mr. Singleton served as a second lieutenant in the air service.

He was married at Fort Meade to Lillain Varn, June 24, 1913, and they have one son, Frederick Gray, aged 13 years. Mr. Singleton is a Mason and a Shriner.

J. J. SINGLETON

J. J. SINGLETON, a pioneer in the phosphate industry, was born in Georgia and graduated in engineering from Emory University. Until his removal to Florida in 1889, he was an engineer for the government in lock and dam construction work.

For several years after he came to Florida Mr. Singleton was manager of the Peace River Mine at Arcadia. He prospected the land and assisted in the establishment of the Charleston Mine, near Fort Meade. Subsequently, he established the Tillman Mine and was manager of the company until 1920, when he retired, and his son, Gray, succeeded him.

Mr. Singleton was married in Georgia to Florence Gray, now deceased; their children are Gray, Mary, Howard, Davis, Joe and Jim, all of whom survived their father, who died at Fort Meade, October 12, 1927.

D. H. SLOAN

D. H. SLOAN, native born citizen of Polk, and one of the county's most influential and tireless upbuilders, from its pioneering days through its more progressive stages, was born ten miles north of Lakeland, October 18th, 1864, the son of Orvil and Sarah M. Sloan. His parents were born in Georgia and, with his grandparents, were among the first settlers in Polk County. Both his father and grandfather were farmers and stock raisers.

Mr. Sloan received his education in the country schools of Polk County. He worked on the farm, taught school and clerked in store until he was about eighteen years of age. For a time he owned a store at Bloomfield, in Lake County.

Moving to Lakeland in 1884 when village just starting he opened a mercantile business, building one of the first store buildings in the town, located north of the railroad. He conducted this business for many years. He is second or third oldest resident of city. He has had large grove holdings, and although he has sold a number of groves, he still retains three. Mr. Sloan is one of the largest property owners in Lakeland, and owns much valuable business property, residences and acreage.

In the upbuilding of Lakeland and Polk County, Mr. Sloan has done his full share. He was a member of the town's first Board of Public Works, the first paving having been done under his administration. First water system put in at this time also. He served as a member of the City Council and the local school board, chairman of the latter for years, and one term in the State Legislature in the lower house, and one term as State Senator. He introduced and secured the passage of the bill requiring all hotels and restaurants to be screened; the anti-racing and anti-gambling bill and several others including the district school bonding bill, which has resulted in many fine, modern school buildings throughout the county.

Mr. Sloan is a devout member of the Baptist church and for thirty years served as the chairman of the Board of Deacons of the First Baptist church of Lakeland. He was married March 14th, 1886, to Ruby E. Wilder, member of an old and prominent Polk County family. Seven children were born to this union: Lula Pauline (Mrs. Tom Cason), Nellie (deceased), Fred T., Marion W., D. H., Jr., Edward O. and Ruby Estelle.

E. W. SMITH

E. W. SMITH was born March 1, 1884, at Sullivan, Ohio, the son of Thomas W. and Flora Eldred Smith. His ancestors, who were from England, were early settlers of Ohio. His maternal grandfather lived in the West and participated in the Indian wars.

Mr. Smith was educated in the schools of his native State, and his taste and inclinations running to things mechanical, he became a steam engineer, until the automobile industry changed his activities. He is now recognized as one of the best automobile mechanics in Polk County.

Coming to Lakeland in 1923, Mr. Smith was with the Lakeland Buick Company for three years, establishing his own business in that city in February, 1927. He has built up a splendid auto repair business and service station, expert work-

men being employed, and honest, reliable service being given. His garage is one of the best equipped in Lakeland.

Mr. Smith was married in October, 1904. He has one son, Sidney Max, and two daughters, Marjorie Fern and Hazel Mae.

LISLE W. SMITH

LISLE W. SMITH, prominent Polk County banker, was born at Seward, Nebraska, May 23, 1888, the son of Edward P. and Margaret W. Smith.

Mr. Smith completed his education at the University of Nebraska, and for several years was engaged in the lumber business in Nebraska. He came to Florida in 1910 and located at Haines City, where he engaged in the citrus business. When the United States entered the World War Mr. Smith went into the service as a second lieutenant.

At the close of the war, he returned to Haines City and became cashier of the State Bank of that city, later becoming vice-president, and since January, 1928, he has been president of the institution. Since his connection with the bank its business has tripled, having deposits at this time of $800,000. Mr. Smith has also been president of the Bank of Lake Hamilton for the past five years.

While he has been busy with the financial affairs of the banking establishments which he heads, Mr. Smith has found time to be helpful in civic matters, and was for three years mayor of Haines City, city commissioner for one year, chairman of the local board of school trustees for five years, and was elected in the June primaries to the county school board. He has always been vitally interested in school affairs and in his enlarged sphere he will doubtless be a great factor in the school development of the county.

Mr. Smith is president of the Polk County Bankers' Association, ex-president of the Haines City Rotary Club, past commander of the Haines City Legion Post, a member of the 40 and 8 of Polk County; and is a Mason, a Shriner and an Elk.

He was married in Osage, Iowa, September, 1914, to Esther Jane Pettit. They have two young daughters, Mary Jane and Nancy Pettit.

PAUL H. SMITH

PAUL H. SMITH, well-known builder and contractor of Haines City, was born in Dublin, Georgia, January 10th, 1894, the son of J. N. and Georgia Smith. Finished grammar school at fifteen and left home to make his own way. He leaned to the trade of his father, that of building, and worked up as he went.

Coming to Florida in 1912, Mr. Smith continued his work in the building trade in New Smyrna, Orlando, Arcadia, and Jacksonville. Then in 1919 going to Avon Park to take partnership with his brother, Wm. L. Smith of that city, in general contracting, and in 1921 moved to Haines City and commenced business by himself where he built up a large organization with necessary capital and equipment for handling the larger and better class of buildings, since which time he has handled such projects as Central Grammar and Ward School buildings, and Exchange Packing house in Haines City, Dixieland School and 1924 addition to High School in Lakeland, High School and City Hall in Auburndale, Grammar School, Arcadia, addition to Polk County Courthouse at Bartow, City Hall and Auditorium



Samuel J. Smith M.D.

for Wauchula, Charlotte County Courthouse at Punta Gorda, and Glades County Courthouse at Moore Haven and numerous other buildings in this section of the State.

In addition to his long list of achievements in the building line, Mr. Smith is the builder and owner of the Hotel Paul Smith at Auburndale. He is also owner and developer of the Sunset Development at Haines City.

Mr. Smith is one of Haines City's leading citizens, and that he is recognized as one of South Florida's most reliable contractors is evidenced by the large number of important contracts he has handled.

SAMUEL F. SMITH

Dr. SAMUEL F. SMITH, a resident of Lakeland for the past twenty years, was born in Marietta, Ohio, August 21, 1873, the son of Samuel F. and Hannah M. (Dibble) Smith. He comes from a line of distinguished ancestors, being a descendant of Miles Standish on his maternal side.

Coming to Florida in 1883, Dr. Smith's parents located at Fruitland Park, and after attending the schools of that section, Dr. Smith graduated from Stetson University with an A. B. degree, and later at the Cincinnati Medical college he graduated with the degree of M. D.

Dr. Smith began the practice of medicine in Leesburg, where he remained for a number of years, coming to Lakeland in 1908. He first did general practice, but having fitted himself to be a specialist by post-graduate work in Philadelphia, he has, for a number of years, confined his practice to the eye, ear, nose and throat. Dr. Smith is recognized as one of the leading specialists of the State, and enjoys a large practice, covering not only Polk County but a large part of South Florida.

Aside from his professional life, Dr. Smith has found time to devote to civic matters, having been a member of the City Council of Leesburg, and President of that body, and has also served as President of the Chamber of Commerce of Lakeland. He represented Lake County in the Legislature, while a resident of Leesburg.

He is a Rotarian, an Elk, Mason and a Shriner. He is a member of the American, State, County and Lakeland Medical Associations.

Dr. Smith was married September 7th, 1905, at Leesburg to Louise J. Connor. They have one son, Samuel Frederick, Jr.

WILLIAM D. SMITH

WILLIAM D. SMITH was born at Cedar Creek, North Carolina, September, 1872. He is the son of Benjamin M. and Susan Smith. The former, a Civil War veteran, was captured and held prisoner during a greater part of the war.

Mr. Smith secured his education in the schools of his native State, taking a business course later at Nashville, Tennessee. He taught school for some years and then engaged in farming. He lived in Georgia for two years, coming to Florida in 1899, locating at Jacksonville. He engaged in the naval stores business there, moving in 1900 to Lake County where he was superintendent of a turpentine farm until 1906, when he went into the turpentine business on his own account at Sorrento. He lived there for a number of years, coming to Fort Meade in 1916.

Since locating at Fort Meade Mr. Smith has been engaged in the naval stores business, but has now about retired from active business. He has identified himself with the growth and progress of his home city, having served it as mayor for a term, during which time the handsome new city hall was built. He was a member of the city council for six years, is a director of the First State Bank, of Fort Meade, a Mason and a member of the Baptist church.

He was married in Georgia to Amelia Rooks. They have five children: Lorina, Thelma, Mildred, Talmage and Lillian.

W. F. SNEED

W. F. SNEED, Lakeland lumberman, was born August 9, 1868, at Morven, Georgia, the son of Clinton and Eliza (Everett) Sneed.

Mr. Sneed lived on his home farm until he was grown, then came to Alachua County, Florida, where the phosphate industry was just opening up. With practically no education but with plenty of good health and energy he applied himself and soon developed into a structural engineer and built more phosphate mining plants than any other one person in the state. In 1906 he came to Polk County, his first place of residence being Fort Meade, where he had charge of the building of plant for the Charleston Mining Company. His last job of this kind in this county was the building of plant for Armour Fertilizer Company near Bartow.

In 1907 he came to Lakeland, and in 1911 organized the Lakeland Manufacturing Company, and has been its President and General Manager since that time. This firm handles lumber, millwork, and a complete line of building supplies, and has one of the largest and best known millwork plants in South Florida, with an extensive wholesale and retail business throughout this section.

Mr. Sneed is a Rotarian, Mason, Shriner, a life member of the Elks, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and both Lakeland Country Clubs. He is always among the leaders in any civic movement, and an enthusiastic force behind anything for the good of the community. He is Vice-President and a Director of the Mine & Mill Supply Company, also a Director of the Florida Lumber & Millwork Association, and owns much valuable property, including a block of stores on East Main street.

In 1904 Mr. Sneed was married at Brooksville to Mary Elizabeth Morgan. They have two children, Helyn Clinton, who graduated this year from the Florida State College for women, and William F., Jr., a student in High School.

HENRY W. SNELL

HENRY W. SNELL, president of the Snell National Bank of Winter Haven, was born at Wrightsville, Georgia, March 12, 1858, the son of William B. and Jane (Hicks) Snell. The former was a farmer and business man of that section and served in the Confederate army.

Mr. Snell came to Florida in 1882, locating first at Bartow where he was in the mercantile business, and had branch stores at Mulberry, Fort Meade and Chicora. In 1892 he established a store at Winter Haven, and has made his home in that city ever since. He began his banking career by lending money in connection with his store, H. W. Snell & Co.



W. T. Sherman

The private bank of H. W. Snell & Company, Bankers, was opened in 1909, and was converted into the Snell National in 1913, Mr. Snell being president. At that time the deposits were less than $200,000, and now run well over two million dollars. Under Mr. Snell's guidance this has become one of the most successful institutions in South Florida.

In addition to his banking interests, Mr. Snell is largely interested in the citrus industry. He served Polk County for one term in the Legislature, is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic order and the Methodist church. Through all the years he has been a leader in everything for the upbuilding of his community and the county as a whole.

He was married at Wrightsville, Georgia, in 1883 to Ida B. Kent, and their children are W. Ray, Clara C., H. W., Jr., and Mary Louise.

JOHN A. SNIVELY

Among the foremost developers and citrus growers of the county is J. A. Snively, of Winter Haven. Mr. Snively is president of the Haven-Villa Company, vice-president of the Florida Citrus Exchange, and vice-president of the Snively-Giddens Company.

He was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, April 24, 1888, the son of Frank B. and Laura May Snively, and attended the schools of his native State.

Mr. Snively came to Winter Haven in 1911 and acquired valuable grove interests, having at this time one-half interest in an 800-acre tract. He has been active in real estate since 1924 when he organized the Winter Haven Company, developers of Inwood and Eloise Woods. Each of these properties contain 2,000 lots, making them the largest subdivisions in the county.

Since its organization, Mr. Snively has been president of the Haven-Villa Company. The volume of business done by this firm has amounted to $20,000,000. He is also a director of the Florence Villa and Winter Haven sub-Exchanges and the Snell National Bank.

Mr. Snively was married to Dorothy DeHaven, and they have three children: John A., Jr., Evelyn Jewett and Avis. Fraternally, Mr. Snively is a member of the Masonic order and the Shrine.

ISAAC SOSKIS

Isaac Soskis, Mulberry merchant, is an example of what pluck, determination and energy, coupled with a certain amount of business ability, may accomplish if properly directed.

Born in Ustulce, Russia, now Poland, in 1889, Mr. Soskis planned and dreamed of some day being a citizen of the United States. Twenty-two years ago he began the journey to New York City, which took him a year to complete. Without funds, he took employment on various ships as a sailor, hoping that some day one of these would land him in the United States. Finally after a year he reached New York, remaining there from 1907 until 1912, working as a mechanic.

In 1912 he came to Florida, spending eight months at Ocala, and the year following he spent at Lakeland where he was connected in business with his brother-in-law, Cyrus Wolfson, in the conduct of the Famous Department Store.

In 1914 he located at Mulberry, where he established a small store, which has grown to extensive proportions, being known as Soskis' Department Store. It carries a full line of men's, women's and children's clothing, a store which would do credit to a much larger place than Mulberry. In addition to this establishment, Mr. Soskis owns the entire block where his store is located.

Mr. Soskis is a member of the Business Men's Club of Mulberry, is prominently identified with the Knights of Pythias and is an Odd Fellow.

He was married in New York to Gertrude Wilson, a sister of Mrs. Cyrus Wolfson, of Lakeland. They have two children: Florence and Albert.

GEORGE E. SOUTHARD

GEORGE E. SOUTHARD was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania, in 1857, the son of Allen and Jane Southard. The former was a sea captain.

After graduating from the schools of his home county, Mr. Southard engaged in the oil-drilling and contracting business in Pennsylvania. He was also a salesman of mining machinery for eleven years.

Coming to Lakeland in 1907, Mr. Southard engaged in the well-drilling business, his activities taking him to all parts of the State, where he had many large contracts. He also represented the Sullivan Machinery Company, of Chicago, manufacturers of mining machinery.

For four years Mr. Southard was a member of the old city council of Lakeland, and for eight years was a director of the Chamber of Commerce. He was among those pioneers who advocated the paving of Lakeland's streets, and was active in securing sewerage, sidewalks and other public improvements for Lakeland. He was president of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce when the $1,500,000 bond issue for roads was passed by the voters of the county.

Mr. Southard has been one of Lakeland's largest property owners, and has done his full share for the community's advancement.

He is a Mason and a Shriner. He was married in New York State to Effie M. Tuller, now deceased. He has three children by a former marriage: George E., Jr., Margaret (Mrs. O. E. Yonge) and Laura (Mrs. Carl Kern).

THOMAS R. SPILLANE

THOMAS R. SPILLANE was born September 18, 1896, at Roxbury, Massachusetts, the son of Michael and Mary (Barry) Spillane. Mr. Spillane is of English and Irish descent, his father having been an Englishman who saw active service in the Boer War, being a lieutenant in the British army, a member of Queen Victoria's Guards. His maternal ancestors were from Ireland, and were early settlers of Massachusetts.

Mr. Spillane graduated from Boston College in 1917, and in 1921 from Vannai's Institute of Accounting. In 1927 he received C.P.A. and LL.B. degrees from the Blackstone Law Institute.

His first work was with the city of Boston as engineer, and later he went with C. G. Brooker & Company as certified accountant. He has also served as Field Auditor in the United States Revenue Department, which work carried him over the States of Georgia and Florida.

In January, 1925, Mr. Spillane came to Lakeland and established a public accounting office, the firm now being known as Spillane & Hunter, the business, started on a small basis, having grown to such an extent that four large offices are now used in the conduct of the concern.

In all civic work, Mr. Spillane is always an active force, having done exceptionally fine work in various drives of the Chamber of Commerce and other worthy undertakings. He is chairman of the Republican party in Precinct 25, Lakeland.

He enlisted in the World War and served as a private in the air service at New York City, spending eight months overseas. He was discharged with the rank of first lieutenant in the Air Service Reserve Corps.

Mr. Spillane is a member of the Exchange Club, Old Colony Club, Republican Club, American Society of Certified Public Accountants, and is Secretary of the Lakeland Merchants' Association. He is a member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Spillane was married to Elizabeth Morgan at Asheville, North Carolina, June 10, 1923. They have two children: Janet and Thomas.

LUDD MYRL SPIVEY

Rated as one of the leading educational men of the South, Ludd M. Spivey, president of Southern College, has done much for that institution, and as proof of his interest in and affection for the college, has refused many flattering offers to accept a similar position with other schools.

He was reared on a farm in Texas, later going to Oklahoma. At the University of Chicago he received the degrees of A.B., M. A., and B.D., and the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him at Birmingham-Southern, Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Spivey came to Lakeland in 1925 to become president of Southern College, and under his able administration the institution has made remarkable progress. Among other forward steps taken under his regime, $500,000 has been added to the endowment fund; the student body, representing 35 States, has been increased from 209 to 836, and a debt of $492,000 on the college has been paid in full.

Dr. Spivey takes a keen interest in civic affairs of Lakeland, and is a member of the Kiwanis Club.

H. A. STAHL

Lakeland boasts of one of the finest residential developments in Florida—not a mere subdivision, but a community made up of people who desire the best. Such a place is Cleveland Heights, and the person responsible for it is H. A. Stahl, of Lakeland and Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Stahl is a native of Ohio, having been born at Talmadge, in that State. He first came to Florida eight years ago, visiting St. Petersburg, and it was on this visit he became interested in the possibilities of Lakeland and vicinity, attracted to that place by the fact that the Cleveland Indians were in training there.

Cleveland Heights is comprised of 500 acres, which includes a magnificent club house, one of the finest 18 hole golf courses in the South, and a number of the handsomest homes in Lakeland, over one hundred fine residences having been built in this exclusive development the first year it was placed on the market. The Club

House, golf course and playgrounds are for the exclusive use of property owners, and Cleveland Heights has been the social center of the community since its establishment.

Mr. Stahl has been engaged in the real estate business in Cleveland for twenty years, his projects in that city being "Ridgewood" and "Madison Golf Lakelands." In addition to the real estate activities, a general brokerage business is carried on.

Mr. Stahl has given splendid cooperation to any forward move in Lakeland, and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

He was married to Agnes Whitmore, September, 1907.

MRS. MAYMIE JOSEPHINE STARLING

MRS. MAYMIE JOSEPHINE STARLING, one of Lakeland's most progressive young business women, was born at Fort White, Florida, January 13, 1898, the daughter of Patrick Timothy and Emma Timmons.

Coming to Lakeland in 1917, Mrs. Starling was for a number of years connected with Lakeland's largest department store, and to her good taste, tireless energy and unfailing courtesy was due much of its success.

In January, 1928, Mrs. Starling opened an establishment in Lakeland, the Starling Smart Shoppe, which has been a success from the opening day. The interior of the store is finished in Spanish style, the compartments for afternoon and evening dresses, sports wear, and coats, being built to resemble the exterior of tiny Spanish villas, and the artistic arrangement makes this store one of the most attractive in Lakeland. Mrs. Starling has ably demonstrated her ability as an exceptional business woman, attentive to every detail, giving service and satisfaction at all times, and her success has in every way been merited.

On April 14, 1918, Mrs. Starling, then Maymie Josephine Timmons, was married to Glenn S. Starling. The latter is a successful young business man of Lakeland, being vice-president of the C. E. Todd Hardware Company.

WILLIAM STEITZ

WILLIAM STEITZ was born in Germany, April 17, 1880, the son of John and Ida (Ringleband) Steitz. The family removed to Paris, France, when the subject of this sketch was an infant, and resided in that city one year, coming to America in 1883.

Captain Steitz made his home in Peoria, Illinois, until 1910, and on September of that year came to Lakeland. Since that time he has been engaged in the real estate business.

Since early manhood Captain Steitz has been a military man. He joined the Illinois National Guard in July, 1901, was made a corporal January 8, 1903, a sergeant August 16, 1903, and a first lieutenant July 14, 1909. Because of his Florida residence, he was placed on the retired list August 5, 1912. He enlisted in the Florida National Guard January 3, 1915, and was made captain of Company D, Second Florida Infantry, serving on the Mexican border the following year. During the World War he served overseas two years as a captain, and was discharged October 31, 1919, returning soon after this date to Lakeland where he resumed his business.

Captain Steitz was the first commander of the Lakeland Post of the American Legion, was department commander of Florida in 1926; is president of the Polk County Chapter of the Reserve Officers' Association, and is a member of the 40 and 8.

He is a former city commissioner, a member of the city planning board; secretary of the Lakeland Chapter of the Red Cross; secretary-treasurer of the Rose Keller branch of the Florida Children's Home Society, and is a member of the State Conference of Social Work. He has been secretary of the Lakeland Lodge of Elks for a number of years.

Captain Steitz was married in Peoria, Illinois, November 28, 1906, to Bertha Ellen Hayes, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Captain and Mrs. Steitz have two foster children, Bertha and Marie Cales.

BERTHA HAYES STEITZ (MRS. WILLIAM STEITZ)

BERTHA HAYES STEITZ (Mrs. William Steitz), one of Lakeland's leading club women, was born at Five Corners, Knox County, Ohio, February 11, 1883, the daughter of John Henry Riggs Hayes and Altha (Weaver) Hayes. She is a descendant of the Boones, the Riggses, the Waltons, the Greggs, and other early American families. She is also related to the late Bob Burdette.

Mrs. Steitz graduated from the Peoria, Illinois, High School in 1901, and in 1906 she married Captain William Steitz, of that city, removing in September, 1910, to Florida, locating at Lakeland. Soon after coming to Lakeland Mrs. Steitz became an active force in the business life of the community, buying a one-half interest in the Lakeland Book Store, having as her partner Fred T. Benford.

She later disposed of her interest in the book store to Mr. Benford and became city editor of the *Lakeland Telegram* in December, 1920. She was also city editor of the *Lakeland Evening Ledger* for over three years.

Mrs. Steitz has been very prominent in club work in Lakeland. She has served as president of the Sorosis Club, the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Polk County Conference of Social Work, and was secretary of the State Conference of Social Work in 1927 and in 1928 is second vice-president; was chairman of the press and publicity for the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs; was State Chairman of Child Welfare of the Legion Auxiliary in 1927-29; is a member of the Lakeland Woman's Club, Legion Auxiliary, Community Players, Florida Historical Society; and is a charter member of the national organization of the Boone Family Association. She is a member of the Universalist church of Peoria, Illinois, and the United Liberal Religious Society of Lakeland.

In addition to her other accomplishments, Mrs. Steitz is a reader of ability, and a pleasing speaker, and her name on a program is always hailed with delight. She and Captain Steitz have two foster children, Bertha and Marie Cales.

CHARLES POWERS STEPHENS

CHARLES POWERS STEPHENS was born in Heard County, Georgia, November 28, 1858, the son of Minor M. and Pellie (Sims) Stephens.

After acquiring his education in the schools of Georgia, Mr. Stephens engaged in the grocery business in that State, having a store at Newnan, and was for eight

years in business in Atlanta. He was also a successful farmer of that State for many years.

Mr. Stephens came to Lakeland in June, 1921, since which time he has conducted one of that city's leading groceries, specializing in general staple and fancy groceries. He and his associates have met with splendid success, giving excellent service and a high grade of goods, and their courteous attention to customers and delivery to the customer's door, making this a very popular store, indeed.

Mr. Stephens is a member of the Independent Order of Red Men, is an Odd Fellow, and a member of the Methodist church.

He was married September 23, 1880, to Catherine Virginia, daughter of Thomas C. Moore, of Newnan, Georgia. They have five children: Jeptha Edgar, Thomas Hughes, Minnie Pellie (Mrs. J. W. Crews), Florence Virginia (Mrs. H. E. Ragland, Newnan, Ga.), Ruby Fay (Mrs. H. O. Bean, Atlanta, Georgia).

SPENCE MINOR STEPHENS

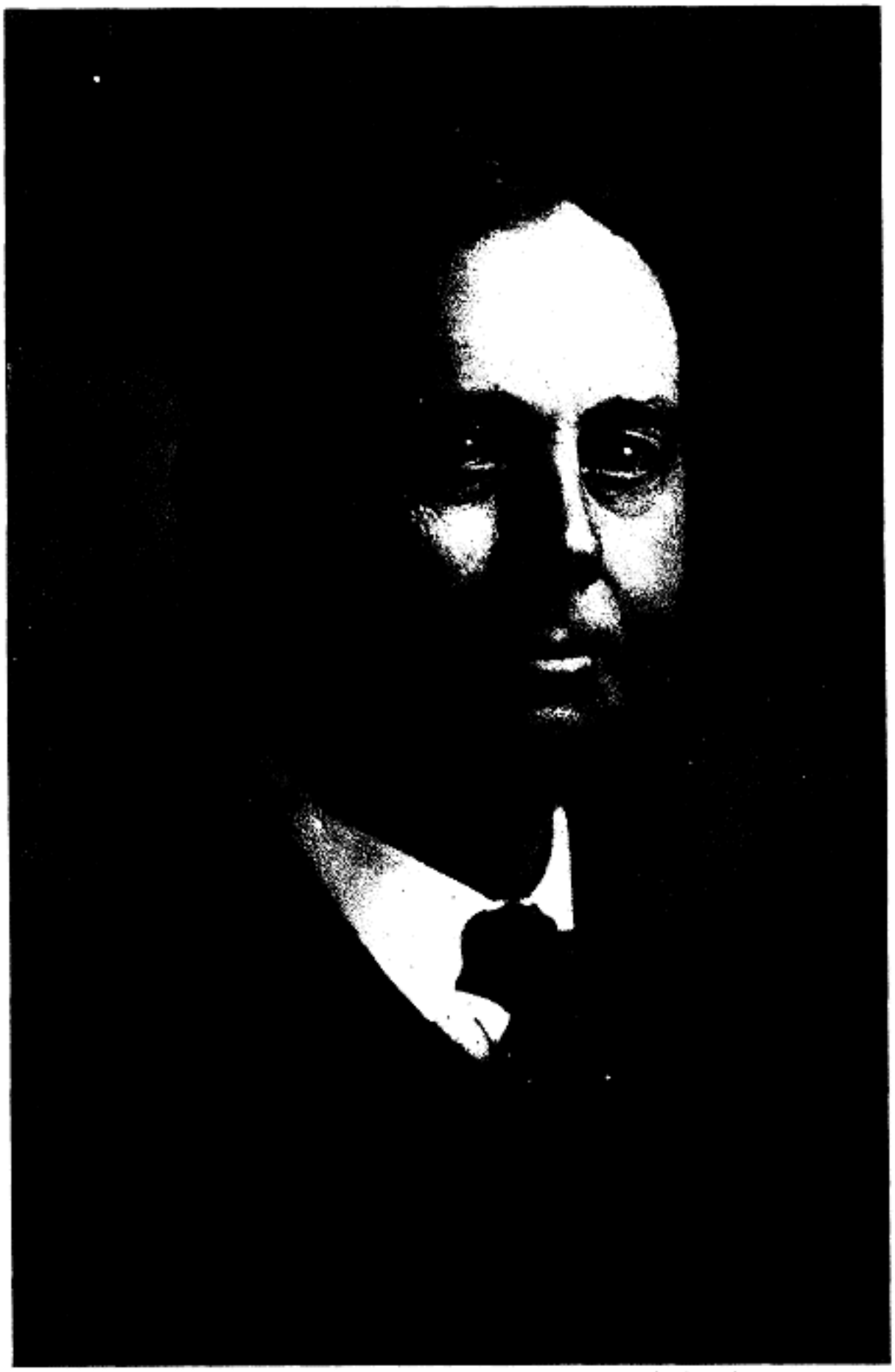
Spence Minor Stephens, for over forty years a useful, progressive and much esteemed citizen of Lakeland, was born in the hamlet of Holt, Breckenridge county, Kentucky, the sun of James G. and Brooke (Minor) Stephens. The date of his birth was May 13, 1862, his death occurring at Russellville, Tennessee, his summer home, on November 19, 1925.

On completing his education at Georgetown College, Kentucky, Mr. Stephens came to Florida, and made a pioneering trip by team from Jacksonville to Lakeland, became enamored of the beauties of the section and was one of the first citizens, coming to Lakeland in 1884 before the advent of the railroad there. He bought property on the east shore of Lake Hollingsworth—then a wilderness—and there developed a lovely home place, now known as Greylocks, one of the show places of the Lakeland section. He was an authority on citrus culture and was interested in a number of groves in Polk county and on the East Coast. He was for many years among the largest shippers of citrus fruits in the State, and owned a packing house at Sparling.

Mr. Stephens built the Colonial Apartment house in Lakeland overlooking Lake Morton, the first apartment house to be built in that city. He was much interested in civic matters and was one of the original boosters for good roads, having in 1900 subscribed to a fund for a road around Lake Hollingsworth, long before the county's splendid system of highways became a reality.

No man in the county gave more liberally or more frequently to charity than Minor Stephens. On every list of such a character ever printed in Lakeland his name could be found, and for a worth-while amount. He was a splendid citizen, one highly honored and respected, and his passing caused wide-spread sorrow wherever he was known.

Mr. Stephens was married in 1893 to Ellen Rogan, of Russellville, Tennessee, and they immediately came to Lakeland where they established their home, surrounded themselves with the beauties of nature and made lasting friends, their lovely home being far-famed for its hospitality. Mr. Stephens is survived by his widow, who continues to maintain her residence at Greylocks, and an adopted daughter, Ellen.



S M Sleptsov

MILES E. STEWART

MILES E. STEWART was born in Hillsborough County, Florida, June 23, 1871, the son of James R. and Martha A. Stewart. His parents were Floridians, his father owning an orange grove near Edison Junction in Hillsborough county.

An orange grower all of his life, and an expert in this line, it is not to be wondered at that Gentile Brothers, among the State's largest growers and shippers of citrus fruit, selected Mr. Stewart to be their grove manager and also put him in charge of their packing houses at Frostproof. He looks after all their groves in Florida, aggregating about 2,200 acres, having served the company in this responsible capacity for the past twenty years.

Mr. Stewart, while a very busy man, has found time to give thought and active interest to civic matters, and for four years served as City Councilman of Frostproof. He was also on the Bowling Green council during his residence at that place.

Mr. Stewart was married 15th of May, 1904, to Ettie H. Thomas, of Plant City, Fla. They have five children: Jackson E., Geraldine, Rachael, Miles E. and Lawrence C.

NILE EDWARD STEWART

NILE EDWARD STEWART was born March 23, 1873, at Henderson, Illinois, the son of Andrew J. and Mary R. (Edwards) Stewart.

After completing the High School at Galesburg, Illinois, Mr. Stewart attended Knox College, located in the same city. For a number of years he was engaged in clerical work for various mercantile and street car companies.

In 1912 he came to Polk County and opened the Stewart Hotel, Bartow, which he conducted in a highly satisfactory manner, disposing of same to become the proprietor of the Wales Hotel at Lake Wales, one of the most attractive hostelries of the county.

During the World War, Mr. Stewart took a leading part in Liberty Loan drives. He is a veteran of the Spanish-American war, being a non-commissioned officer. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, is a Rotarian, and fraternally is affiliated with the Elks and Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Baptist church.

Mr. Stewart was married in December, 1898, at Ontario, Illinois, to Nellie Evelyn, daughter of Isaac U. Wetmore, of that city.

DR. NELLIE V. STEWART

DR. NELLIE V. STEWART was born at Roanoke, Virginia, the daughter of E. H. and Ida (Leps) Stewart. Her ancestors were men of science and ministers of the Gospel.

Dr. Stewart is of English and French descent on her paternal side, and one of her early ancestors, James Stewart, was, in the pioneer days of Virginia, granted one-half of Spottsylvania County by the King of England. Her father, E. H. Stewart, now a prominent orange grower of the Winter Haven section, was at one time one of the wealthiest men in Roanoke, where he operated a wholesale and retail furniture store, and was president of ten different land companies. He served that city as mayor, and was prominently identified with the life of that community until coming to Winter Haven in 1919.

Dr. Stewart was educated in music at the Royal Victoria College of Music in London, and is also a graduate of the Presbyterian College for Women, located at Charlotte, North Carolina, and the American School of Osteopathy, of Kirksville, Missouri. In addition to her D. O. and D. S. degrees, Dr. Stewart was given a degree in theology by the Presbyterian Assembly Training School for Lay Workers of Richmond, Virginia.

Dr. Stewart came to Winter Haven in December, 1921, and established an osteopathic office in her home. She investigated Abrams Electronic treatment, and finding many had been cured of cancer by its use, went to Boston and studied same. On her return she establisihed a sanitarium, which soon outgrew its quarters, and it has been enlarged to an institution of 45 rooms and 14 baths. A staff of five nurses and a dietician assist Dr. Stewart in its conduct, and they specialize in such diseases as respond to osteopathy, medicinal baths and the electronic reaction of Abrams' treatment. A branch sanitarium, with a capacity of forty patients, is also conducted at St. Cloud by Dr. Stewart.

Dr. Stewart is a member of the Civic League, the Ladies' Violin Club, the American Electronic Research Association, the Florida Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, is a Kappa Sigma and a member of the Methodist church.

NORMAN S. STONE

One of the young men of Lakeland who is making a name for himself as an able and conservative lawyer is Norman S. Stone, who is a native of Union City, Tennessee. He was born July 5, 1898, the son of George S. and Ada B. (Short) Stone; both of his grandfathers were engaged in fighting for the South's cause in the Civil War.

During the World War Mr. Stone served two years in Panama with the Coast Artillery and held the rank of sergeant-major. He remained in the army for some time after the close of the war, and is a captain in the Officers' Reserve Corps. In 1923 he resigned to continue his studies at Vanderbilt University, and graduated in law in 1925.

He practiced in Nashville for a short time and in September of the year of his graduation removed to Lakeland, the former home of his wife, who before her marriage was Meeky DeVane. They were married September 3, 1924, and have one son, Norman S., Jr. Mr. Stone's offices are in the Polk County Trust Company building.

Mr. Stone is a Mason and a Shriner, and belongs to the Lions Club, of which organization he has been secretary since it was formed. He is a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha and Phi Alpha Delta fraternities.

NORMAN A. STREET

NORMAN A. STREET was born October 8th, 1876, in Chicago, Ill., the son of Charles A. and Emily K. (McReynolds) Street.

Grandparents on father's side were English and came to this country about 1820. Grandparents on maternal side were Scotch and settled near Detroit, Michigan, about 1800.

Father was engaged in lumber business prior to 1871, at Chicago, Ill., and for some fifty years thereafter. Has three brothers who are all graduates of Yale College.

Graduating from Yale in 1898 with an A. B. degree, Mr. Street then attended Northwestern University, Chicago, from which institution he graduated in law in 1901. He was a prominent lawyer of Chicago until 1922 when he became a permanent resident of Winter Haven.

Since 1886, Mr. Street had been coming to Florida for the winters, and during these years had visited every part of the State. He finally decided that Winter Haven offered more varied attractions, having more advantages that appealed to him than other sections of the State, and he acquired valuable property there and became a permanent citizen.

Mr. Street is much interested in the citrus industry, owning a one-half interest in a large grove near Winter Haven. He was one of the original members of the Committee of Twenty and the Committee of Fifty, to formulate the new Florida Citrus Growers Clearing House Association and was manager of the finance campaign of said "Committee of Fifty" in organizing said association.

Mr. Street is vice-president of the Lake Region Savings Association, and a director of the Lake Region Country Club at Winter Haven.

He was married in Chicago, June 4th, 1910, to Luella O'Neil, of Detroit, Michigan.

JOHN BAXTER STREATER

John Baxter Streater was born at Chesterfield, South Carolina, November 2, 1874, the son of W. J. and Mary C. Streater.

After attending the schools of South Carolina, he came to Lakeland with his parents 35 years ago, the date of his arrival in Lakeland being January 27, 1893.

Mr. Streater, who is a well-known contractor of the county, did his first work of this kind when he worked as carpenter and foreman for his uncle, W. D. McRae, in Lakeland's pioneer days. He was with Mr. McRae for nine years, since which time he has operated independently as a contractor, although for a time he was in partnership with W. F. Kennedy under the firm name of Streater & Kennedy, and for the past three years has been in partnership with his two brothers, Joe and W. H. Streater, the firm being known as Streater Bros.

Among the buildings Mr. Streater has constructed are: The Polk County Trust Company building, Stockton building, brick plant, South Jacksonville; school buildings at Mulberry and Auburndale, Methodist church, Winter Haven, and the following public buildings at Lakeland: Webster Avenue School, Central Avenue School, Nurses' Home, and Cleveland Court School, which is now nearing completion. Other business buildings and residences have been built by this firm in this section, their reputation being such as to make their services much in demand.

Mr. Streater was married to Rosamond C. Buchanan in Lakeland. They have five children: James Harold, Rosamond Claire (Mrs. Harvey Henderson), Mary Floy, Alice and J. B., Jr.

E. C. STUART

E. C. STUART; an honored and highly esteemed citizen of Polk County for the past 41 years, having been a resident of Bartow since April 15, 1887, was born in Bennettsville, South Carolina, December 8, 1852, the son of John C. and Ann Eliza (Crosland) Stuart. His grandfather, Dugald Stuart came from Scotland just after the Revoluntionary War and settled in North Carolina.

E. C. Stuart received his education in the common schools of his county, was reared on a cotton farm and followed that business until he came to Florida.

Mr. Stuart, who is recognized as one of the outstanding men of Polk County, whose achievements have been many, whose works have been good, and whose influence in business, church and civic circles have been far-reaching, is a citizen who has wrought well and who has at all times enjoyed the esteem of those with whom he has come in contact.

Coming to Bartow in 1887, he was for two years manager of the Polk County Abstract Company, which concern was established by his brother. In 1889 he engaged in the real estate business, and for a number of years his efforts and energies were concentrated on the development of the great phosphate industry of the county. Mr. Stuart was living at Bartow when phosphate was first discovered, and it has been largely due to his efforts that the industry has attained its present proportions in Polk County. With C. G. Memminger, Mr. Stuart developed the Coronet Phosphate Company's holdings at Coronet, and he is still a director of the company. He owns more phosphate lands in Polk, Hillsborough and DeSoto counties than any other one individual.

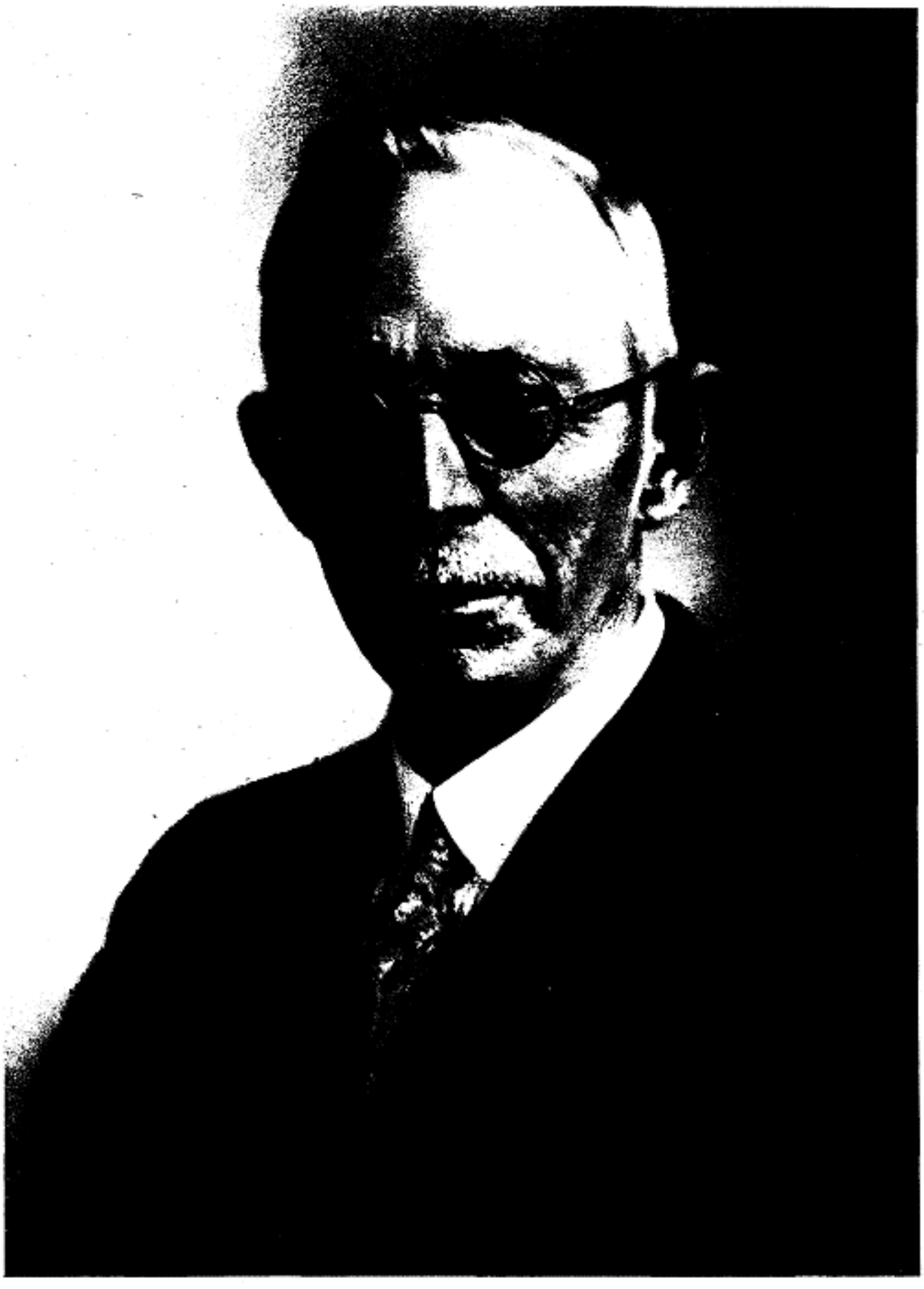
Mr. Stuart is one of the leading financiers of Florida, probably being an official in more banking institutions than any other banker in the county. He is a director of the Polk County National Bank of Bartow, the Lake Wales State Bank, the First National Bank of Avon Park, the First State Bank of Avon Park, the First National Bank of Sebring, and the Tropical State Bank of Lake Placid.

In the history of Polk County, the name of E. C. Stuart holds a prominent place; in the chronicles of this county's various forward movements, he was always a leader, a builder and a force for good. He served Bartow as mayor in 1896, and has always been interested in all movements looking to the upbuilding of his city and the county as a whole.

Mr. Stuart is a devout member of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church.

Besides being a large factor in building the handsome new church at Bartow he established and built A. R. P. churches at Tampa, Coronet, Lake Wales and Lake Placid, Florida. He was Moderator of the Synod of his church in 1897.

Mr. Stuart was married December 27, 1882, to Miss Laura Ellis of Hickory, North Carolina, now deceased. On October 14, 1896, he married Mrs. M. E. Williams, daughter of Prof. Wm. Hood of Bartow, Florida, formerly of South Carolina. He has two sons, J. Kolb and W. H., by his second marriage.



Edie Stuart

ALBERT HENLEY STURGESS

During his comparatively short residence in Lakeland A. H. STURGESS, Sales Manager of the H. A. Stahl Florida Properties Company, has actively identified himself with the business and social life of the community. He was born in New York City, February 20, 1895, the son of Alvah and Caroline (Henley) Sturgess. He attended Worcester (Massachusetts) Academy and Dartmouth, graduating from the latter institution in 1917. During the world war Mr. Sturgess was an Ensign in the Navy, and served 20 months at sea.

He entered the real estate business at Lowell, Massachusetts, and was connected with the Cambria Steel Company, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for some time.

He came to Lakeland in 1925 with the Stahl organization, developers of Cleveland Heights, recognized as one of the most beautiful suburban communities in the State.

Mr. Sturgess is President of the Lakeland Real Estate Board, and is a member of the Baptist church, Exchange Club and Cleveland Heights Golf and Country Club, and is vice-president of the West Coast Golf League.

He married Julia Elizabeth Krieger, daughter of William C. Krieger, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on May 1, 1920. They have two sons, Albert Henley, Jr., and William Krieger.

HUGH C. SULLIVAN

HUGH C. SULLIVAN was born December 12, 1892, in DeSoto County, Florida, the son of Matthew and Elma Sullivan. His parents were both Floridians, his father being a leading fruit grower at this time of Polk County.

When a mere infant, his parents moved from DeSoto to Polk County, locating in 1893 between Fort Meade and Frostproof. His education was received in the schools of this county, and he later graduated from the Tampa Business College.

Having been in the citrus business all of his life, starting when a lad of twelve in the packing end, he is today President of the Frostproof Packing Company, and general manager of the concern. This house ships about 300 carloads of fruit annually.

Mr. Sullivan is a large citrus grower, owning several fine groves in the Frostproof section, and he has a wide reputation as being an authority on all matters pertaining to the citrus business.

Like other busy, successful men, Mr. Sullivan has found time to devote to civic affairs, and since the town of Frostproof was incorporated he has been a member of the City Council with the exception of one year.

Mr. Sullivan is a member of the Masonic lodge. He was married at Frostproof to Mattie B. Williams, of Tennessee, and three children were born to this union: Victor H., Rundell C. and Harry, all of whom were born at Frostproof.

ASBURY SUMMERLIN

ASBURY SUMMERLIN, one of Winter Haven's leading lawyers and ex-Mayor of that city, was born at Moultrie, Georgia, April 16, 1889. He is a son of George and Nancy Summerlin, and his grandfathers were veterans of the Civil War.

Asbury Summerlin received his law training in the offices of learned members of the bar, and practiced in his home city five years.

He came to Winter Haven in 1915 and opened offices, practicing alone until the present year, when a partnership was formed with Judge E. C. Wimberly.

Mr. Summerlin was Justice of the Peace for about six years at Winter Haven, and from 1920 until 1924 served as mayor. During his administration the city hall was erected, the white way was installed, $400,000 worth of paving was done and the first sanitary sewers were laid.

Mr. Summerlin is interested in citrus culture, and owns several groves in the county. He is a member of the American, State, County and Winter Haven Bar Associations, and is a former president of the latter. He also belongs to the Chamber of Commerce, Masonic order, Knights Templar and Shrine. He is a Methodist and teaches the Men's Bible class.

He was married in Georgia to Sarah Clark. They have three children: Arline, Doris and Rob Roy.

JOSEPH EDWARD SWANSON

JOSEPH EDWARD SWANSON was born in Spring Hill, Alabama, November 26, 1866, the son of Joseph and Carrie (Mulkey) Swanson.

His family moved to Georgia when he was a young lad, and he received his education in the schools of that State, later engaging in farming there, coming to Lakeland in 1902.

For the past 26 years Mr. Swanson and his wife have conducted the Eureka hotel in Lakeland, in addition to which enterprise Mr. Swanson has engaged in farming on a large scale, the growing of watermelons being one of his specialties. He holds a position with the Non-Acid Fertilizer Company as salesman, and being a recognized authority on farming, is of great assistance to growers who seek his advice.

Mr. Swanson has owned and sold several farms, and has also brought into bearing a fine orange grove.

Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Odd Fellows, and is a member of the Baptist church.

Mr. Swanson was married November 20, 1890, at Randolph, Georgia, to Ida Young, daughter of John Young.

JOSEPH E. SWARTZ

J. E. SWARTZ, of Lake Wales, was born at Schenectady, New York, November 10, 1887, the son of Andrew and Louise (Arnet) Swartz. He attended the public schools of his city, and in his early manhood established a plumbing and heating business at Port Henry, New York.

Mr. Swartz came to Lake Wales in 1919, and continued his chosen line of work, doing business as J. E. Swartz & Co. This firm handles roofing and sheet metal in addition to doing plumbing and heating work. The concern is housed in a modern brick business building which was built by the owner.



John J. Swearingen

Mr. Swartz belongs to the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and Knights of Pythias and was a member of the Port Henry lodge of Knights of Columbus. He attends the Catholic church.

He was married at Schenectady, June 4, 1906, to Jessie May Greene, of Troy, New York. They have one daughter, Virginia Louise.

JOHN J. SWEARINGEN

JOHN J. SWEARINGEN, State Senator from Polk, and one of the most brilliant lawyers of the State, has a long record of worthy achievements to his credit, and his name has been closely woven into the history of the county's growth and development.

Mr. Swearingen was born in Newnan, Georgia, May 19, 1878, the son of M. B. and May C. Swearingen, and with his parents came to Homeland, this county, at the age of five years. The trip was made in a wagon, as there was no train into this section at that time. His father, who died about thirty years ago, was one of the early farmers of Polk.

He attended the schools at Homeland, later graduating from Summerlin Institute at Bartow, and in 1902 received his degree in law at Washington and Lee University. He began the practice of his profession at Arcadia, remaining there until 1907, when he formed a partnership with the late T. L. Wilson, and was associated with him until his death in 1927. The firm name, which was Wilson & Swearingen, has been changed to Swearingen & Wilson, and has among its clientele a majority of the phosphate companies of the county, a number of banks and other large corporations.

Mr. Swearingen has ably served Polk County in the State Senate for the past four years, and was re-elected to this office in the June primaries. His work in this connection has won for him State-wide recognition.

He is vice-president and a director of the State Bank of Bartow, a director in the Bank of Mulberry, a director of the Roux Crate Company, Bartow, and a director in Victory National Life Insurance Co. of Tampa. He is interested in the citrus industry, and owns valuable groves in this and Highlands County.

Mr. Swearingen is a Mason and a Shriner; he worships at the Methodist church, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Southern College.

He was married April 15, 1908, in North Carolina to Mary H. Rainey. They have two children, Katherine Wilson, who is a student at the Florida State College for Women, and William B., who attends the University of Florida.

J. C. SWINDEL

J. C. SWINDEL was born in Liberty County, Georgia, October 27, 1865, the son of C. S. and Mary (Geiger) Swindel. His father was a Civil War veteran, and a prominent Georgia farmer.

Before coming to Florida Mr. Swindel was engaged in farming, sawmill, turpentine and mercantile business in Georgia, but his career as a successful grower and financier was developed after taking up his residence in the State of his adoption. Since coming to Lakeland in 1901, he has been largely interested in citrus culture and owns several large groves in the county, having over 600 acres planted to citrus trees, in partnership with W. P. McDonald.

Mr. Swindel served as county commissioner of Polk County for five years, and was chairman of the Board when the original bond issue of $1,500,000 for good roads was passed, and it was largely due to his efforts that this bond issue succeeded. He has been a member of the Florida Citrus Exchange since its organization, being one of the charter members, and has also been president of the Lakeland Citrus Growers' Association, during which time the present handsome building was erected.

Recently when the State Bank of Lakeland became involved in financial difficulties, he, with W. P. McDonald, reorganized this institution, known now as the Lakeland State Bank & Trust Company, and he is active vice-president and chairman of the Board of Directors. The saving of this bank from failure and the clarifying and stabilizing of the banking situation in Lakeland, due to the action of himself and his associates, was a public service that is highly appreciated, not only by the citizens of Lakeland, but by the people of the entire section of South Florida.

Mr. Swindel is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Baptist church, and fraternally is affiliated with the Elks. He was married in Georgia on October 24, 1886, and ten children were born to this union: Renton C. and Northabell, both deceased; Rosa Lee (Mrs. A. E. Hudson), Jewell, C. S., Brunelle (Mrs. C. H. Manvel), Ruth (Mrs. W. C. Bertram), Davis, Bliss and Park Trammell.

STEPHEN ALDEN SYLVESTER

Dr. Stephen Alden Sylvester was born August 21, 1848, at New Ipswich, New Hampshire, the son of Stephen and Eliza Ann (Wetherbee) Sylvester. Dr. Sylvester traces his ancestry back to 1630 when Richard Sylvester came to America in the Winthrop fleet from Essex, England, and settled at Weymouth, Massachusetts. The descendants of Richard Sylvester settled at New Ipswich, New Hampshire, in 1815.

Dr. Sylvester attended the New Ipswich Appleton Academy, and graduated from the Boston University as a doctor of medicine in 1875. He practiced medicine and surgery in Newton Center and Boston, Massachusetts, until 1913. He took courses in medicine and surgery in London and Paris in 1891 under Louis Pasteur and other noted doctors. He served on the staff of Newton Hospital for seventeen years, retiring from practice in 1913, when he came to Florida, locating at Lakeland.

After extensive travel, Dr. Sylvester chose Lakeland because he deemed it the most desirable location for permanent residence in the United States. When he first came to that city he bought a farm south of the town and developed the Sylvester Vineyard, the first person to grow grapes commercially in the county. He later removed into the city, where he and Mrs. Sylvester own a fine, colonial home.

Dr. Sylvester is a gentleman of the old school, a fine, honorable citizen, who enjoys the high esteem of many friends, who regard him as a distinct asset to the community. He is at all times interested in civic affairs, and has done his full share of development during his fifteen years' residence in Lakeland.

Dr. Sylvester was married March 16, 1875, to Mary Louise Haskell at Fitchburg, Mass. The latter died December 20, 1918. In October, 1920, Dr. Sylvester



J. M. Swinnerton

married Mrs. Letitia Vertrees Sylvester. Dr. Sylvester has two sons by his first marriage, Carl Alden, who graduated at Harvard and is now vice-president of the Rio de Janeiro Light and Power Company, Brazil, South America, and Philip Haskell, also a graduate of Harvard, who is now practicing medicine and surgery at Boston, and is a member of the medical staff of the Harvard Medical Department.

MRS. LETITIA VERTREES SYLVESTER

One of the most interesting and talented women of Lakeland is MRS. LETITIA VERTREES SYLVESTER, who was born in Southern Illinois, of Kentucky-Virginia parentage, her forbears having been large land owners in Virginia before George Washington came into the world. Her father and mother were Charles M. and Mary (McFarland) Vertrees, Kentuckians.

Mrs. Sylvester comes of a long line of distinguished ancestors who were of the titled families of France and Holland. Her family tree has been traced back to as early a date as 476 A. D. She is a descendant of the van Meters of Holland, and of Louis du Bois of France, who bore the titles of Count de Fienne, Count de Roussa of de Roussa Castle, which castle is still standing near Calais, France. This Louis du Bois came to America about the year 1630.

Her college education was received at Jacksonville, Illinois. She stepped into the arena of the bread-winner when left a widow with three small children, whom, unaided, she reared and educated. They are Lloyd Vertrees Watkins, of Lakeland, Mrs. James Stuart Sharp, of Plant City, and Gleynn Vertrees Watkins of Williamsport, Pa., District Secretary of Underwriters' Association, comprising ten counties of Pennsylvania.

In 1897 Mrs. Sylvester received a diploma from the Eddy School of Metaphysics—called Christian Science—a school chartered by Act of Congress, which entitles her to all the privileges and emoluments of any reputable physician in the science of medicine. Before coming to Lakeland she had, at different times, been a Reader in four churches and a registered practitioner; but she is not now a communicant of the church of that cult. Being an earnest student after Truth, her research into metaphysics and psychology has given her a broader view, she says, "of the deep things of God" than she found in the teaching of that school, and she prefers to be known as a metaphysician and psychologist rather than by the more limited name of Christian Scientist; though she has lost none of her appreciation of the value of that science—as far as it goes.

Possessed of a brilliant mind, Mrs. Sylvester has given to the literary world a volume of verse, "Magnolia Blossoms and Holly Berries," and a magazine story of fiction, "Marah, a Child of the South."

She is an ardent advocate of prohibition and woman suffrage and was associated with Susan B. Anthony and Dr. Anna Shaw as a platform speaker in the interest of these measures. She is a member, and vice president, of the Sorosis Club, and of the Lakeland Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and two years served as its historian.

Mrs. Sylvester came to Lakeland in the summer of 1919 from Mississippi where she had been teaching in Mississippi College for Women, to visit her son,



Mrs. Letitia Vertrees Sylvester

Mr. L. V. Watkins, then resident in Lakeland Highlands, where he owned groves, and bought a home on what is now New Jersey Road, being desirous of retiring from active duties and wage earning.

Her second husband, Col. Pullman, had passed away within a year after their marriage.

Here she met Dr. S. A. Sylvester, and became his wife in October, 1920. They reside in their attractive home at 302 Belvedere Road.

WILBUR BERT TALLEY

W. B. TALLEY, one of Florida's leading architects, and designer of some of the State's handsomest public buildings, was born July 13, 1871, in Carthage, Missouri, the son of Joseph R. and Louisa (Allen) Talley. Mr. Talley's father was one of Lakeland's honored pioneer citizens, coming to the city when it was but a small village, and being a contractor and builder, built a number of the business houses and residences of that period.

After completing his education in the schools of Illinois, where his parents moved when he was a young lad, Mr. Talley came south, making Atlanta his headquarters for several years, during which time he did construction work in Georgia and North Carolina, having large contracts at various points in both States.

In 1900 Mr. Talley came to Lakeland and engaged in architectural work for six years, leaving here in 1906 to open offices in Jacksonville, where he was in business for sixteen years as one of that city's leading architects.

While in Jacksonville Mr. Talley's firm drew the plans and supervised the building of the Duval County Court House, the Duval County Armory, the Hill office building, and many of that city's business buildings and apartment houses. He also designed the Court House for Flagler county, located at Bunnell, and Palm Beach County Court House at West Palm Beach and about 22 school buildings in various parts of the State. He also had large contracts at Key West and Charleston.

In 1922 he again took up his residence in Lakeland, and since that time his firm has enjoyed a splendid business, having had large contracts throughout the county.

Mr. Talley is prominent in Masonic circles, being Worshipful Master of Southland F. & A. M., Eminent Commander of Lakeland Commandery and past High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons, past Patron of the Eastern Star, and is a Shriner.

Mr. Talley was married in Illinois to Nellie Damielle, now deceased. Five children were born to this union: Wilbur D., Thomas V., Sarah Louise, Eugene E. and J. Wilson. Mr. Talley was married August 8th, 1922, at St. Augustine to Flora M. Jordan. Mrs. Talley is prominent in club work, and is past Worthy Matron of the Lakeland Chapter Order of the Eastern Star.

BETHEL BLANTON TATUM

BETHEL BLANTON TATUM, while now a long-time resident of Miami, Florida, is fully entitled to a place in the annals of Polk, because of the prominent part he played in its affairs for many years. Mr. Tatum was born in Dawson County,

Georgia, March 1, 1864, the son of Aaron S. and Jane E. Tatum. His father was of mixed German and Welsh descent, his mother of Irish blood; both, however, were born in this country, the former in North Carolina, the latter in South Carolina. Rev. A. S. Tatum, his father, was an alumnus of Mercer University, and was engaged in preaching in Baptist churches in Georgia and Florida practically up to his death, which occurred at the age of 81. Mr. Tatum had only the educational advantages of country and village schools up to the age of sixteen, when he started out to earn his own living, and to help educate several younger brothers. At the age of 17, accompanied by five other Georgia boys, one of these being a brother, J. H. Tatum, he came from Adairsville, Georgia, to Orlando, Florida, ahead of the railroad. He moved on to Kissimmee, pioneering there for a year, then, in 1883, he located at Bartow.

He at first engaged in the lumber business at Bartow, then, about 1885, he became owner and editor of the *Bartow Informant*. After a short time he sold the *Informant* and bought another newspaper outfit and established the *Advance-Courier*. Later, he repurchased the *Informant*, and consolidated the two papers under the name of the *Courier-Informant*. After conducting the paper for some time, he sold it and engaged in the real estate business with his brother, under the firm name of J. H. Tatum & Co., which firm was active for years in advertising the section and in bringing settlers into Polk County. This firm helped to establish many of the phosphate companies.

He was absent from Bartow one year during which he edited a paper at Rome, Ga., returning when the phosphate boom made its appearance, and after engaging for some time in real estate activities he organized the Polk County Printing Company and bought the *Courier-Informant*. He was editor and business manager of this publication until January 1, 1900, when he moved to Miami, Florida, becoming owner of the *Miami Metropolis*, now the *Miami News* owned by Hon. James M. Cox, of Ohio. He was engaged in this work for ten years, when he sold the newspaper, and has since devoted his energies to real estate development and sales, being still the head of the Tatum Bros. Corporation, the oldest and most reliable real estate organization in Florida.

Mr. Tatum was active in the business and civic life of Bartow, serving the city as mayor for one term and for several years as councilman. During his connection with the city administration the planting of the oak trees on the streets and avenues of the city and around the court house square was done, resulting in the name "City of Oaks" being later applied to Bartow. He was also for several years a director of the Polk County National Bank.

He has been an active and official member of the Baptist church, a member of the Odd Fellows, Red Men and Elks. He served as president of the Florida Press Association one year, and as vice-president one year. Mr. Tatum was twice married—in Rome, Georgia, in March, 1889, to Mary R. Forsythe; and the second time in October, 1909, to Eletah Marshall Davis, of St. Joseph, Mo. He has no children.

DEWITT E. TAYLOR

DeWitt E. Taylor, of Winter Haven, was born at Detroit, Michigan, March 8, 1900; he is a son of DeWitt H. and Alice (Andrus) Taylor and grandson of Elisha Taylor, one of the founders of the city, who was known as the "Patriarch of Detroit." DeWitt H. Taylor was a large real estate operator and was prominent in political circles.

The subject of this sketch attended Hotchkiss Preparatory School at Lakeville, Connecticut. Later he was a student at Yale University and graduated at the University of Michigan. He is a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Mr. Taylor came to Winter Haven in 1923 and engaged in the real estate business, and has large grove interests. At the time this is written he is having 160 acres planted in addition to his other lands.

He supervised the construction of the DeWitt Taylor office building, which is one of the largest structures in this section. Another project of his is Kossuthville, a settlement between Winter Haven and Lakeland. The majority of inhabitants of this village are of Hungarian nationality, and are engaged in raising strawberries and vegetables.

Mr. Taylor and Mabel M. Markle were married at Winter Haven, April 16th, 1925.

HARRY G. TAYLOR

Harry G. Taylor, Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, was born in Bartow April 10, 1891, and has called that city home ever since. He is a son of L. T. and Catherine Taylor, who were originally from Georgia; his father came to Polk County in 1869, while his mother lived where Bartow now stands during the Civil War.

Harry Taylor attended the schools of Bartow and took his law course at Stetson University. His practice of law, which started in 1916 in partnership with J. W. Brady, was interrupted for two years, which time he spent in France with the Expeditionary forces.

Upon his discharge, Judge Taylor returned to Bartow and resumed the practice of law, this time having as his partner Lennard O. Boynton.

In 1923 the subject of this sketch was appointed State's Attorney, and in 1927 rose to the position of Circuit Judge. He was mayor of Bartow in 1920.

Judge Taylor is a director of the Polk County Bank and of the Polk County Building Association. He is a member of the American Legion and fraternally is associated with the Masons, Shriners, Knights Templars and Knights of Pythias.

He was married in Jacksonville in 1919 to Jeannie Weir, and they have one daughter, Norma Virginia.

JOHN M. TAYLOR

John M. Taylor was born November 5, 1868, at Huntsville, Alabama, the son of Major Felix McConnell and Frances Prudence (Beadle) Taylor.

Mr. Taylor received his education in the private schools of Huntsville, and later graduated from the Tuscaloosa State University.

For a number of years Mr. Taylor was with the Standard Lumber Compnny at Alton, Lafayette County, Florida. In 1921 he came to Lakeland and engaged

in the real estate business, specializing on acreage and subdivisions. During the real estate activity three years ago, he was instrumental in bringing large numbers of satisfied settlers to this section.

Mr. Taylor is a member of the Episcopal church. He was married August 1, 1915, to Lettie Madeline Bell, of Mansfield, Louisiana. They have three children: John M., Lettie Bell, and Mary Frances.

FRANK C. THOMPSON

FRANK C. THOMPSON, one of Frostproof's leading citizens, was born in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, June 7, 1888, the son of John L. and Carrie A. Thompson.

His education was acquired in the schools of his native State and for some time thereafter he represented Armour & Company in various parts of the United States. On January 18, 1908, he became a citizen of Polk County, locating at Frostproof, where, for the past twenty years, he has been a factor in the development of that section. He has developed and sold a number of orange groves, and at the present time owns 100 acres of bearing grove, and has interest in others. The majority of his groves are around Lake Reedy.

Mr. Thompson owns a one-half interest in the Frostproof Hardware Company of Frostproof; one-half interest in the Frostproof theater, and has a large nursery business. Since living in the county he has been in the sawmill business, but has disposed of these interests.

Mr. Thompson is President of the Frostproof Chamber of Commerce; is an ex-member of the City Council, and is a director of the Frostproof Citrus Association. He is a Mason and a Shriner.

Mr. Thompson was married in Ohio to Vera C. Converse. They have two children: Frank, Jr., and Ramon.

WILLIAM L. THOMPSON

WILLIAM LEFFIE THOMPSON was born near Lakeland, March 20, 1884, the son of James L. and Anna (Wilder) Thompson. His father was a Georgian by birth, his mother a native Floridian.

Mr. Thompson was educated in the schools of the county, and various business activities claimed his attention until 1913 when he became General Agent for the Pan-American Life Insurance Co. with headquarters in Lakeland. This company does a substantial business in the State, and all matters are cared for at Mr. Thompson's suite of offices in the Marble Arcade.

Mr. Thompson has been largely interested in real estate, having been owner and promoter of Edgeton, one of Lakeland's first subdivisions.

During the World War Mr. Thompson was an active worker in Liberty Loan and Red Cross drives. He is a member of the Baptist church.

He was married November 9, 1909, to Minnie A. Johnson, of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Six children were born to this union: Elizabeth, William, Gertrude, Clarence, Alice and Ernest.

A. C. THULLBERY

A. C. THULLBERY, for many years a prominent figure in the life of Lake Wales, and whose every effort was exerted toward its upbuilding and general development, was born in Laholm, Sweden, June 21, 1847.

Educated in the schools of his native land, Mr. Thullbery came to this country when nineteen years of age, and settled in Illinois, where the greater part of his long and useful life was spent. In that State Mr. Thullbery was engaged in farming on a large scale.

The lure of Florida drew him to Lake Wales in 1913, where he bought a tract of land and planted an orange grove. He was actively engaged in the real estate business and influenced large numbers of people from Illinois to take up their permanent residence in that favored section. He had served as vice-president and was a director of the Lake Wales State Bank at the time of his death.

Mr. Thullbery was a devout member of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church and for many years served as an elder.

He was a member of the Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce and fraternally was affiliated with the Odd Fellows. He was married in Illinois to Martha A. Hayes and seven children were born to this union: Myrtle (Mrs. R. N. Jones), Margaret (Mrs. M. R. Mason), Alice (Mrs. J. H. Davis), Midora M. (deceased), Morgan C. (deceased), Clarence, and Howard.

Mr. Thullbery died at Lake Wales, July 23, 1926, aged 79 years.

CLARENCE C. THULLBERY

C. C. THULLBERY, prominent in the citrus industry, is a native of the State of Illinois, and was born in 1886. He attended the schools near his home, and subsequently engaged in farming.

He came to Lake Wales in 1914. He conceived the idea of caring for groves for their owners, many of whom were residents of the North, and at one time had 4,000 acres under his care. Associated with him in the work was his brother, and they disposed of their interests in 1914.

Mr. Thullbery devotes practically all of his time to his personal property and to civic matters. He was the developer, as president of the Ridge Manor Company, of a subdivision near Lake Wales, and spent $150,000 on improvements. He is a member of the city council and chairman of the street committee.

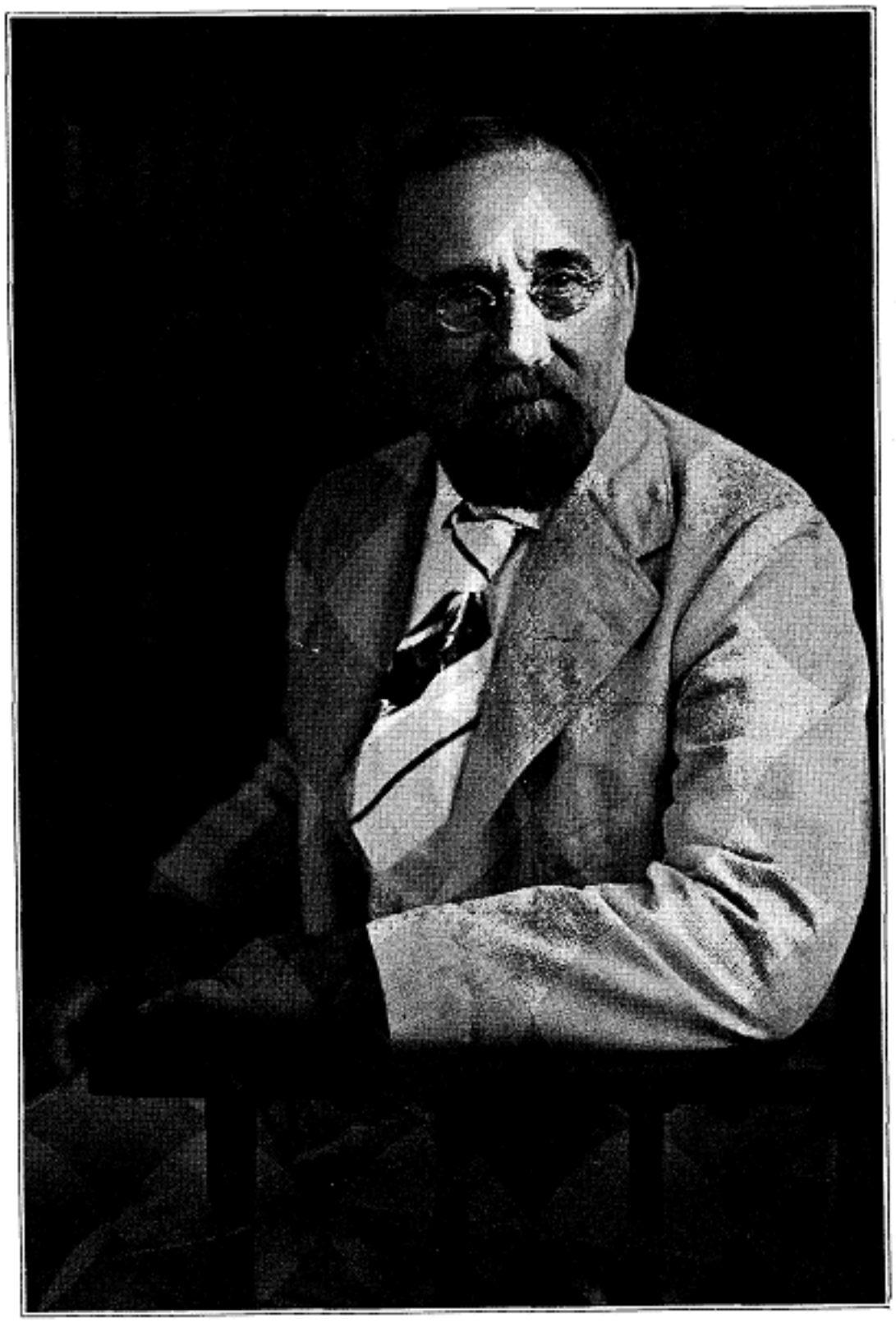
Mr. Thullbery has been secretary and treasurer of the local citrus association five years, and during that time the shipments of this branch have increased from 80,000 to 185,000 boxes each year.

He is a charter member of the Rotary Club, and attends the Presbyterian church. Fraternally, he is a Mason and a Shriner, having the distinction of being the first Mason initiated into the local lodge, and a charter member of Egypt Temple.

Mr. Thullbery was married in Illinois and has one daughter: Martha.

A. M. TILDEN

A. M. TILDEN, for the past eighteen years a leading authority of Polk county on citrus culture, was born November 18, 1887, the son of George H. and Emily (Mosher) Tilden. He comes of a long line of distinguished ancestors, the family originating in Massachusetts in 1658, of English descent.



P. G. Thulberg

Mr. Tilden completed his education at Cornell University, where he was a student for three years. He came to Florida in 1910, locating at Winter Haven, since which time he has been engaged in the citrus business on a large scale. He is president of the Florence Villa Citrus Growers' Association, which position he has held the past five years; is vice-president of the Avon Mfg. Co.; vice-president of the Exchange Supply Company; director of the Growers' Loan & Guaranty Co.; vice-president and manager of the Inter-State Grove Properties, Incorporated; secretary and treasurer of the Hundred Lakes Corporation; secretary and treasurer of the Haven Villa Corporation and a director of the First State Bank of Winter Haven.

Mr. Tilden owns about 110 acres of orange groves and the companies he is interested in own 900 acres, giving him over 1,000 acres under his care and control.

Mr. Tilden is a member of the Lake Region Country Club and the Theta Delta Chi Club of New York. He was married at Winter Haven to Elmina Ambrose and they have three children: Samuel Jones, Elmina R. and Edna A.

J. D. TILLIS

One of the oldest, if not the oldest, citizen in point of residence, is J. D. Tillis, of Bartow, who, with his parents, settled in Fort Meade in 1855. He was born in Columbia County, August 22, 1849, the son of Willibe and Celia Tillis. The family removed to Tampa in 1850, and five years later to what is now Fort Meade, at that time a part of Hillsborough County. Mr. Tillis' father, one of the real pioneers of the county, died in 1895.

Mr. Tillis tells many interesting stories of the early days, including Indian uprisings, ways of transportation and the maintainence of schools, which were in session three months of the year.

For many years Mr. Tillis assisted his father in the management of his farm, engaging in stock-raising and the growing of citrus fruit. In 1890 Mr. Tillis was elected tax collector and from 1895 until 1903 served as Sheriff of Polk County. At the expiration of his term he returned to Fort Meade and later disposed of his interests, removing to Bartow, where he ran a small hotel known as the Tillis House.

Mr. Tillis sold his hotel three years ago, and now devotes his time to his grove property at Alturas, although he makes his home at Bartow.

Mr. Tillis is a Mason and worships at the Methodist church. He was married at Fort Meade December 31, 1884, to Hattie Powell. Their children are: Neta (Mrs. Angle), Loca (Mrs. R. M. Oglesby), and one son, M. J. Tillis.

CLINTON E. TODD

Clinton E. Todd was born in Springfield, Ohio, February 25, 1877, the son of Samuel A. and Marietta Todd.

After completing his education in the schools of Ohio, Mr. Todd came south, locating at Cordele, Georgia, where he remained for a number of years, being engaged in the hardware business there.

On coming to Lakeland in 1913 he purchased the hardware establishment known as the Model Hardware Company, and changed the name to C. E. Todd, Hardware. From the start this firm's business has grown and expanded until they

now have one of the largest stores in the county. A complete line of hardware and sporting goods is carried and the establishment is a credit to the city.

Mr. Todd has always given much effort, time and financial assistance to civic matters of all kinds, being particularly interested in Boy Scout activities, and in Chamber of Commerce endeavors he has always been at the forefront. He is an enthusiastic golfer, and has the distinctoin of being the first citizen of Lakeland to take up this popular outdoor sport. He is a member of the Lakeland Golf and Country Club and the Cleveland Heights Club. He was one of the organizers of the former course and materially aided in its building.

Mr. Todd is a prominent Rotarian, being Past President of the Lakeland Club. He is a Mason and a Shriner and is ex-vice president and former director of the Central Bank and Trust Company.

He was married in Ohio to Corinne Jacobs and they have five children: Vesta, Isabelle, Sam, Corinne and Jim.

J. PITT TOMLINSON, M.D.

J. Pitt Tomlinson was born at McDonough, Georgia, in 1873, the son of J. P. and Pennie E. (Head) Tomlinson, both of whom were representatives of old Georgia families. Many of the latter's relatives are now living in Florida, and were among the first settlers of Tampa and Plant City. W. P. Head, uncle of the subject of this sketch, served as Mayor of Plant City during the yellow fever epidemic, and did splendid work for the people of that community.

Dr. Tomlinson graduated in medicine at Emory University in 1898, and for 22 years practiced in Bradford County, Florida. He removed to Lake Wales in 1920, and has established a successful practice there. In addition to his general work he is recognized as a splendid surgeon and X-ray specialist.

Dr. Tomlinson owns an orange grove near Lake Wales and has other valuable holdings. He is a member of the County, State and Southern Medical Associations, and during the World War was the medical member of the Bradford County Draft Board. He is a Mason, Shriner and K. of P., and a charter member of the Lake Wales Kiwanis Club.

Dr. Tomlinson has been married twice. His first wife, whom he wed at Lake Butler, was Louise King, and she died in 1905. He later married Mary P. Wells, of Georgia. He has two sons, J. Pitt, Jr., a practicing physician of Atlanta, and L. W., a student at the University of Florida.

MISS MAY TOMLINSON

Miss May Tomlinson, for 16 years one of the leading educators of Polk county, was born in Paris, Tennessee, the daughter of Wiley James and Sue Cornelia (Williams) Tomlinson. On her maternal side she is a direct descendant of Major John Randall, of Virginia and North Carolina, who was her great-great-grandfather and a gallant soldier of the Revolutionary War. Her grandfather, Harrison Williams, was a planter and large landowner of Paris, Tennessee, and a soldier of the Confederacy.

Miss Tomlinson, on completing her public school education in the schools of Lake county, Florida, attended the State College at Lake City, and later Stetson University, DeLand, Florida.

In 1900 Miss Tomlinson accepted a position as assistant principal and teacher of English in the Lakeland schools, in which work she was eminently successful, her ability as an educator being widely recognized. A score or more young men and women who have distinguished themselves in the business and professional world, many of them attaining places of eminence, received their inspiration to achievement during Miss Tomlinson's career as a teacher.

In 1917 Miss Tomlinson gave up educational work to enter the real estate field, and in this line of endeavor she has proven exceptionally well qualified, having been instrumental in locating scores of desirable families in this section.

Miss Tomlinson served on the first City Plan Board, and during her incumbency various sites for municipal buildings, schools and the Athletic Field were chosen, and in the deliberations of that body Miss Tomlinson took a leading part.

Miss Tomlinson is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and the First Methodist church.

ERNEST A. TOWNSEND

ERNEST A. TOWNSEND was born April 28, 1881, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the son of J. F. and J. A. Townsend. His grandfather, A. J. Townsend, fought in the Civil War.

Mr. Townsend received his education in the schools of Tuscaloosa County, and for twenty years was in the postoffice of Tuscaloosa, starting in as clerk and finally becoming postmaster, which office he held for seven years.

In May, 1925, Mr. Townsend located in Lakeland and for three months engaged in the real estate business. In that year he established the Townsend Manufacturing Co. at Lakeland, the firm handling mill work of all kinds, building supplies, etc. The business is owned by himself and wife, and since its establishment it has made a remarkable growth, the monthly payroll being over $1,000 at the present time.

Mr. Townsend has recently built a nice home in Olympian Park at Lakeland, and is a permanent fixture of that city. Fraternally, Mr. Townsend is a Mason. He was married in Alabama to Frances Horton. They have two children, Ernestine Annette and Sarah Louise.

PARK TRAMMELL

A citizen of Polk County who has a record of political triumphs seldom equalled is Park Trammell, United States Senator. Not only has Mr. Trammell been successful in every political campaign in which he has engaged, but he has also achieved a record of constructive service which, perhaps, has much to do with his frequent and continued successes.

Senator Trammell is a native of Alabama, but came to Polk County, Florida, when a small boy, with his father, John W. Trammell. He received his education in the common schools of Lakeland, studied law at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., later taking a law course at Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn., graduating from the latter institution in May, 1899.

He engaged in the practice of law in Lakeland immediately following his graduation, and the same year was elected mayor of that city. This was the beginning of a series of political victories, culminating in his accession to membership

in the highest legislative body of the land. From mayor of Lakeland his next step was his election in 1902 as representative of Polk County in the Florida Legislature; next he was State Senator from the Seventh District, from 1905 until 1909, being president of the Senate in 1905. From the Senate he progressed at once to the office of Attorney-General of Florida, serving from 1909 to 1913; in 1913 he became Governor of Florida; and before the completion of his term as Governor he was elected to the United States Senate. He has just been elected to a third term as member of this august body. He had opposition in every political race, but was never defeated, his election in every instance being by a sweeping majority.

Mr. Trammell's work in the United States Senate has been such as to merit the approval of his constituents as evidenced by their latest endorsement of him, in the primaries of June, 1928, when his majority was approximately 40,000. Among other constructive measures which he fathered may be mentioned the act providing that a $60 bonus be paid to all soldiers upon their discharge from the World War; an amendment to the Farmers' Relief Law, making it possible for the citrus growers, farmers and cattle men of Florida to obtain government loans through the banks; an amendment which brought about the repeal of the tax on freight, express and passenger charges, resulting in a reduction of transportation charges of three hundred million dollars annually. He was also largely instrumental in bringing about a 10 per cent reduction in freight rates on citrus fruits and vegetables, and also a material reduction in freight rates on lumber. These are only some of the examples of many valuable accomplishments to his credit on behalf of his constituents.

Mr. Trammell is one of the outstanding figures in Polk County's history, and his home people are proud of his remarkable career and splendid achievements.

THOMAS SIMMONS TRANTHAM

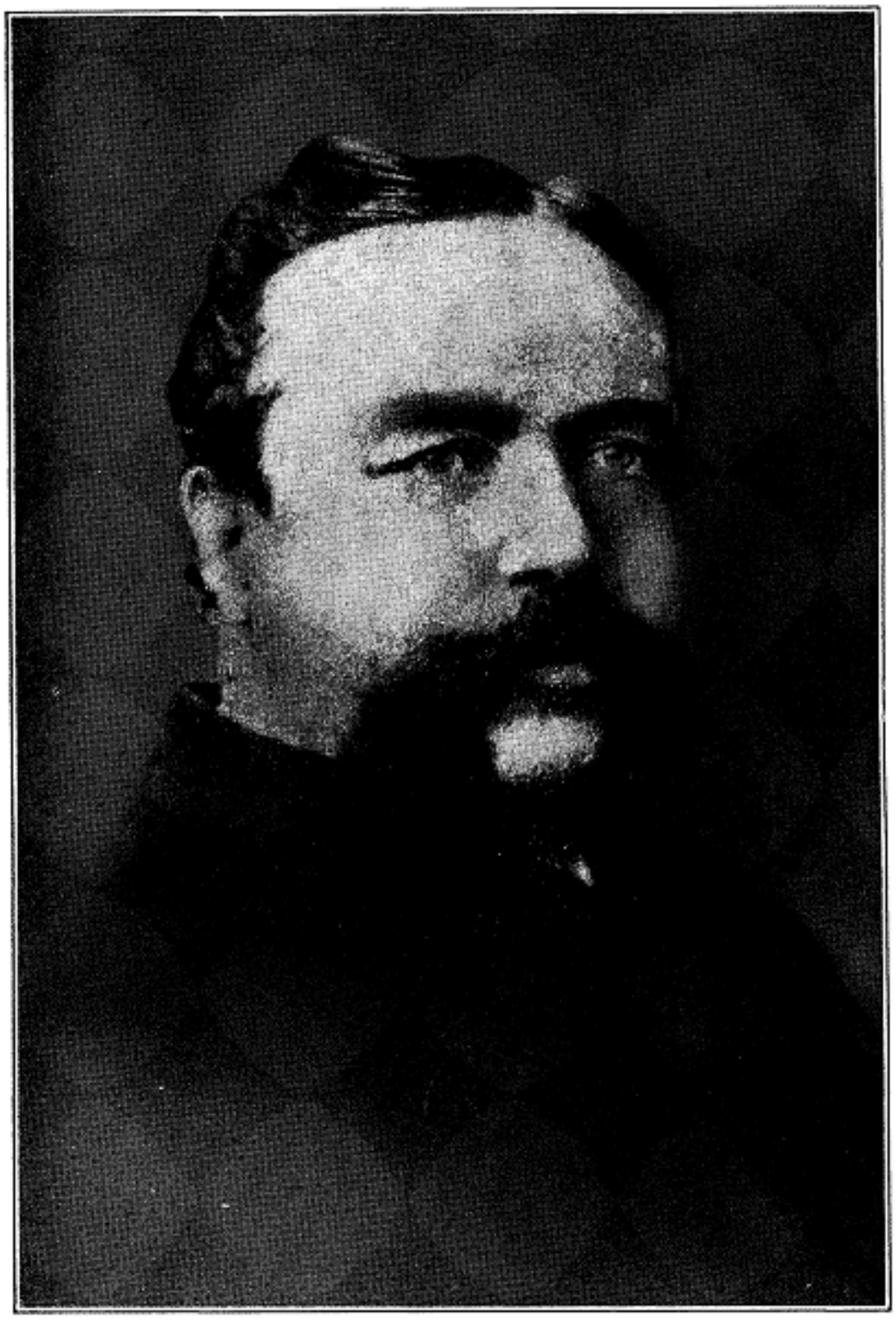
T. S. TRANTHAM, member of the law firm of Bryant and Trantham, Lakeland, whose connection with much important litigation establishes his position as one of the ablest members of the Polk County Bar, is a native of South Carolina. He was born at Camden in February, 1888, a son of William Dunlap and Nannie Elizabeth (Simmons) Trantham; his grandparents were John I. Trantham and Elizabeth Drakeford, descendants of distinguished families.

Mr. Trantham has had splendid educational advantages. He attended Wake Forest College and the University of Florida, graduating in law from the latter institution.

He has lived in Lakeland since 1923, coming to that city from Ocala, previous to which he lived in Tallahassee, where for four years he was assistant counsel for the Florida Railway Commission. In 1917 he received a temporary appointment as assistant attorney general.

Mr. Trantham is a member of the Exchange Club, Elks, Polk County Motor Club and the Masonic order. He also belongs to the Old Colony Club and both country clubs of Lakeland.

Mr. Trantham was married in Ocala, February 25, 1915, to Josephine Van Bullock. They have four children, Josephine Carr, Frances Elizabeth, Mildred Dunlap and Thomas, Jr.



Wm Van Fleet

WILLIAM VAN FLEET

In recording the early history of Polk County, the name of William Van Fleet is accorded a place of prominence, as it was through his efforts that the railroad first penetrated into Polk County, the road at that time being known as the Tampa, St. Johns, Peace Creek Railway, later the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railway.

Mr. Van Fleet was born in Sandusky, Ohio, in 1833, and was 87 years of age at the time of his death, which occurred at Auburndale, February 3, 1919. His mother and father were from Holland and were among the pioneer settlers of New York City. Mr. Van Fleet started life as a purser on the lake steamers plying between Buffalo and Chicago. During the Civil War he saw service in the West.

After the war Mr. Van Fleet was in the theatrical business in Chicago for some years, having a substantial interest in the old Dearborn theater, but as early as 1879 he came to Florida, secured a charter for the railroad, raised the capital necessary to build it, later becoming the first president of the road. The J., T. & K. W. later became the Plant System, and has since been absorbed by the Atlantic Coast Line, the road which Mr. Van Fleet was instrumental in having built being from Kissimmee to Tampa and from Lake Alfred to Bartow.

Other prominent residents of Auburndale who settled there in 1881, influenced by Mr. Van Fleet to come to this favored section, were Col. and Mrs. Richard R. Foote, his wife's parents, who took up a homestead in that section comprising 160 acres, coming from Chicago to Kissimmee by train and from Kissimmee to Auburndale by ox cart. Col. Foote was the first real estate agent and the first merchant of Auburndale.

In addition to his other activities of a larger nature, Mr. Van Fleet took great interest in Auburndale; he was impressed with the beauty of this section and bought from the United States Government 360 acres of land bordering on Lake Alfred, Lake Medora and Lake Van. He named the majority of the lakes surrounding the present towns of Auburndale and Lake Alfred. About 35 years ago he returned to the county, locating in Bartow, where he organized a number of phosphate companies with outside capital, among these being the Foote Commercial, Excelsior, and Bell, of all of which he served as general superintendent.

William Van Fleet was married in Chicago in 1879 to Medora Roxane Foote, who died in Auburndale, October 7, 1918. Six children are still living, Martha (Mrs. Albert Dickey), of Auburndale; William, also of Auburndale; Lois Medora (Mrs. James Dickinson), of Jacksonville; Richard R., of Winter Haven; Alfred E., of New Orleans, and James A., who is a major in the U. S. Army and a graduate of West Point.

ISAAC VAN HORN

Florida has no greater developer within its borders than Isaac Van Horn, founder of Polk City, and the active head of interests which control practically seven million dollars worth of property in northwest Polk, which property is practically free and clear of mortgage indebtedness. This, in itself, is a record that many will envy and few, if any, have attained.

Mr. Van Horn first came to Florida in 1918, and it was Haines City's good fortune to claim him as a citizen, and to him is freely given the credit for transforming the then small village of 300 population to the present, progressive and up-to-date community, for "he really built Haines City" is what one hears on every side on a visit to that lovely, modern town.

His operations at Haines City and in the Scenic Highlands were extensive and far-reaching, but newer and larger fields of development were necessary for one of Mr. Van Horn's initiative and resourceful powers. Therefore, in 1922, he chose the rolling, lake-dotted section of northwest Polk as his major field of development, and there founded and created the beautiful town-site of Polk City, and today is referred to as the "Daddy of Northwest Polk County", of which title he is justly proud. Giant trees, that doubtless had stood for centuries, were felled to make way for paved streets; business houses of all kinds, including a bank and one of the finest and best hotels the State affords—Wayside Lodge—were built, and thus came into being one of the State's model young towns that is destined for large achievements of every character.

Among the major developments that have come to Polk City since Mr. Van Horn brought it into being, is the Seaboard Air Line Railway, which affords rapid and direct contact with the centers of population, and as a result hundreds of investors and homeseekers of the higher type have also "found" Polk City, and its future is assured.

At the time this is written, the summer of 1928, a great industrial development is rapidly becoming a reality for Polk City, announcement having just been made of the purchase of a tract of many thousands of acres of land bordering on the town. These lands are covered with virgin pine, and the purchasers, John R. Barfield & Son, of Vienna, Georgia, prominent lumber manufacturers, plan to erect at once a large mill in the city limits of Polk City, which will bring an additional population of several hundred, and give added impetus to this already thriving section.

Mr. Van Horn, who has wrought so well that future generations will be told of his achievements, was born in Buck's county, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1865, the son of Thomas C. and Lizzie W. Van Horn. He was educated in the schools of Philadelphia, and his first two years of business experience was with a wholesale house as a traveling salesman. He engaged in the real estate business in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1888, later establishing his residence in Boston, Mass., where he was in the brokerage and banking business. He rounded out his business career in the north as a manufacturer of automobile parts, in which, as in his other undertakings, he was eminently successful.

Of Holland Dutch lineage, Mr. Van Horn's ancestry dates back to 1652, the first member of the family to come to the United States being Isaac Van Horn, who fought in the Revolutionary War. A matter of justifiable pride to Mr. Van Horn is the fact that he is eligible to the Order of Founders and Patriots of America, being the only member of this Order in Polk County.

Mr. Van Horn is president of the Polk City Mortgage & Finance Company, which has a capital stock of $500,000, and assets of $750,000; is president of the



Isaac Van Horn

Polk City Country Club; a life member of the National Geographic Society and the Appalachian Mountain Club. While a resident of New Hampshire, he served on the military staff of Governor Quimby with the rank of colonel.

Mr. Van Horn was married on June 21, 1922, to Emma Callanan, of Brookline, Mass.

D. H. VARN

D. H. VARN, owner of Varn's Pharmacy, of Fort Meade, was born in that city October 22, 1887, the son of F. M. and Mary L. Varn, pioneer residents. He attended the local schools, and graduated in pharmacy in 1911.

From 1908 until 1916, Mr. Varn was connected with the Taylor Drug Company of Tampa. He returned to his home town and purchased the Fort Meade Pharmacy, the name of which was changed to Varn's.

Mr. Varn owns an orange grove near Fort Meade in the Lake Henry district, and has other property.

He was married in 1918, to Irma Strain. They have three children: David, Mary and Bernard. Mr. Varn is prominent in fraternal life, having membership in the Masonic bodies and Knights of Pythias.

F. M. VARN

F. M. VARN, one of the oldest residents of the county, both in years and residence, was born at Lake City, this State, August 30, 1847.

With his parents, Mr. Varn came to Polk County in 1852, and located at Fort Frasier, later Haskell, and now Highland City. In 1868 he located at Fort Meade, where he has since resided on the farm which he purchased that year.

Mr. Varn saw active service in the Civil War as a member of the Florida regiment, and relates many interesting experiences of the old days.

He was married in 1870 a few miles north of the present site of Lakeland to Mary L. Seward. Their children are Kline O., of St. Augustine; J. S., of Tampa; D. H., of Fort Meade; Claude G., of Daytona Beach, and Mrs. Gray Singleton, of Fort Meade.

MAX E. VIERTEL

Among the thousands who have migrated to the United States from the Old Country and made a success financially is Max E. Viertel, prominent citizen of Winter Haven, who is a native of Germany, born in that country in 1863.

When a lad of sixteen years of age, Mr. Viertel came to the United States with his parents, and settled in Wisconsin. He lived in that State until 1884 when he went to Nebraska and engaged in the mercantile and banking business.

In 1913 he came to Winter Haven, where he was largely interested in the citrus industry, but has now sold all of his grove holdings. He was one of the organizers of the American National Bank of Winter Haven in 1921, and since 1923 has been president of that institution.

He has always been interested in civic matters, and for several years served as a member of the City Council of Winter Haven.

He is a member of the M. E. Church, South, and of the M. W. A. He was married in Nebraska to Lydia E. Baumgartel and six children were born to this union: Helena, Viola, Rudolph, Gladys, Marguerite, and Lovan.

A. E. WALKER

A. E. WALKER, practicing attorney and ex-judge of the municipal court of Winter Haven, is a native of Edward County, Illinois, born December 15, 1881. He is a son of Thomas J. and Elizabeth Walker, the former a pioneer of that section, coming to this country from England.

Judge Walker was educated in Illinois and studied law in various offices. He practiced for many years in his home county, during which time he served as city attorney for Albion, State's attorney for the county and clerk of the Circuit Court.

Judge Walker established his home at Winter Haven in 1923. In addition to his many other interests he owns a valuable grove at Lake Hamilton, and is largely instrumental in the formation of the Florida Citrus Growers' Clearing House Association. Judge Walker is at the present time Chairman of the committee of fifty growers who are the organizers of the Clearing House Association, which, it is said, will be of great advantage to fruit shippers.

Judge Walker is a member of the Board of Governors of the Chamber of Commerce and is past president of the Rotary Club. He is a member of the American, State and County Bar Associations and the Masonic Order and Shrine.

CHARLES H. WALKER

In thinking of the fruit industry of the county, one's mind instinctively turns to those men who have worked untiringly for its advancement, and for the recognition of this section as the ideal spot of the world for the growing of citrus. Such a man is Charles H. Walker, of Bartow.

He was born in Macon, Georgia, the son of George E. and Fanny Walker, and was educated in the schools of his native State. With his parents he removed to Bartow in 1886, where his father was in the fruit business. He, himself, has been engaged in this work for twenty-five years, and at this time owns or controls between four and five thousand acres of bearing trees scattered through Polk and other counties.

He is president of the Lake Mabel Grove Company, Alturas Groves, Inc., Oak Knoll Groves Company, of Manatee County, and the Avon Florida Citrus corporation. He is also vice-president and organizer of the Highland Crate Company, of Avon Park, which was started with a few dollars and now does over $750,000 worth of business annually.

Mr. Walker organized the various citrus exchanges in Polk, and built the majority of packing houses. He organized and was manager of the Polk County Sub-Exchange for a long period. The first year this concern handled 135,000 boxes of citrus fruits, and in 1922-23, the last year he was manager, 2,500,000 boxes were handled.

He has been a member of the city council of Bartow for nine terms, and in 1910 served as mayor. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic bodies and the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Walker and Myra Wright were married in Bartow in 1913.

H. P. WALKER

H. P. WALKER, who came to what is now Auburndale by private conveyance from Lake Weir and arrived in Polk County on the day the first train ran into the community, 45 years ago, has lived in this county ever since, witnessing and aiding in the remarkable growth that has taken place.

He was born in Giles County, Tennessee, November 29, 1857, the son of Rev. J. F. and Emily (Brown) Walker. Mr. Walker's father was a minister, and a chaplain in the Confederate army, and he also had three brothers who were ministers. He was reared on a farm and prepared himself for college by studying at home at night after working all day. He paid his way through college and also that of a younger brother by teaching classes assigned him. At the age of 23 he was elected principal of Hardin College, Savannah, Tenn. After serving one year he was offered an increase in salary to remain longer, but declined that he might take a post-graduate course in a Western university. Here he received first honors in a school of 2,700 students, and was also awarded the degree of A.M.

He began the study of law, but his physicians assured him that his life depended on his moving to a more southern climate and engaging in outdoor pursuits, so he came to Florida to die of tuberculosis, and made a bad job of it. He reached the State in 1883 by railroad, and thence to what is now Auburndale. He moved into the only vacant house in the community, a one-room frame building in an unbroken forest with no neighbors in sight. Mr. Walker relates that in those days if he were out after night his wife would build a fire in the yard in order that he might locate his home, there being no roads. He later built a home on Lake Mattie, five miles north of Auburndale, planting a grove which was killed to the ground, just as it came into bearing, in the freeze of 1894-95.

Mr. Walker was State lecturer and organizer of the Farmers' Alliance in the 90's when that organization was influential in the political affairs of Florida and other States. For several years he was principal of the Auburndale school and later of the Winter Haven High School, being recognized as one of the county's leading educators.

Mr. Walker and Lila Morrison were married in Corinth, Mississippi, September 1, 1881. They have two sons: Robert and Ralph, and six grandchildren.

MORTON C. WARE

M. C. WARE, proprietor of the Ware-Smith Funeral Home, one of the oldest undertaking establishments in the county, is a native of Marshall, Indiana, but has made his home at Winter Haven since 1915.

Mr. Ware was reared on an Indiana farm and was educated at Bloomingdale Academy. For some time he was with the firms of Flanner and Buchanan and Charles T. Whitsitt, morticians, of Indianapolis, Indiana, and received valuable training in his profession. He established his own business at Marshall, Indiana, in 1892, but disposed of his interests and returned to Indianapolis to join a large firm there, where he remained 18 years.

For several years prior to coming to Florida, Mr. Ware traveled the Central States, representing the Max Huncke Chemical Co., St. Louis Embalmers' Supplies, and in 1915 settled at Auburndale. During the same year he removed to

Winter Haven. Connected with him in the management of his business is his son-in-law, J. Allyn Smith, who received his training from Mr. Ware. Only the most up-to-date equipment is used by this establishment, and Mr. Ware and Mr. Smith keep in touch with all modern embalming methods.

Mr. Ware and Mr. Smith are members of the Florida Funeral Directors and Embalmers' Association, Knights of Pythias, D. O. K. K. and Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ware was married near Marshall, Indiana, to Linnie M. Cannon in 1884, and they have one daughter, Ina May, wife of J. Alyn Smith. The Ware-Smiths are known as the Ware-Smith Funeral Family.

MALCOLM G. WARING

Among the earlier residents of Lakeland is Malcolm G. Waring, who established his home here 26 years ago. He is a Virginian, having been born in Essex County, February 8, 1886, the son of William and Mary Waring.

Shortly after his arrival in Lakeland in 1902, he removed to Kissimmee, where he resided two years. He established a meat market in Lakeland in 1904, which he disposed of four years later to engage in the real estate business, and he has maintained his offices in the Bryant building for twenty years. He has valuable property interests in this section, and has done much toward development, handsome subdivisions which stand as a monument to his foresightedness being Patten Heights, Beacon Hill and Winston City.

Mr. Waring is a Methodist, holding his membership in the First church. He has served the church long and faithfully, giving generously of his time and money when any need has arisen. He is one of the best friends of Southern College, having subscribed $25,000 to that institution.

While living in Kissimmee Mr. Waring won the hand of Eunice Lee, member of a prominent Kissimmee family, and to this union six children were born, five of whom are living: Gordon L., Margaret, Anne, Mary and Malcolm, Jr.

PAUL WATKINS

PAUL WATKINS was born at Key West, Florida, August 17, 1887, the son of Joseph and Hannah S. Watkins. His father was of Welsh descent, and his maternal grandfather was Amelio Nel Stevenson, noted explorer, of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Mr. Watkins was educated in the schools of Monroe County, and came to Fort Meade to engage in the manufacture of cigars in 1911. Prior to coming to Lakeland in 1921, he spent eight months on the Ohio river, giving lectures on the deep sea monsters.

Mr. Watkins has a cigar factory at Lakeland, the favorite brand, "Hav-a-Lakeland," being manufactured by him. Last year 2,500,000 cigars were distributed by this concern, some being shipped as far north as Cheboygan, Michigan.

Mr. Watkins served as first lieutenant in the Home Guards at Fort Meade during the war, and attended the Officers' Training School at Freemont, California. He was one of the organizers and a charter member of the Civitan Club, and is vice-president of the Fellowship class of the First Methodist church. He is an active force in the fraternal life of the city; he is Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge

of Lakeland, and for seven years has represented the local Knights of Pythias at the Grand Lodge.

Mr. Watkins and Louisa Owens were married at Tampa October 26, 1906. They have one son, Paul, Jr.

HERMAN WATSON

HERMAN WATSON, who is recognized throughout this section as an unusually skilled and successful surgeon, holds various offices in medical associations of Lakeland and the county, showing the esteem in which he is held by his fellow practitioners.

He was born at Metter, Georgia, February 12, 1889, the son of Willis and Rebecca (Lanier) Watson. In 1912 he received his M.D. degree at the University of Georgia, and his education was supplemented by special work at a French university at the close of the war. He was a commissioned officer in the Medical Corps and served over-seas eleven months. In 1925 he took a post-graduate course at Vienna, where noted surgeons of the world were gathered.

Dr. Watson began his practice in Sumter County, and in 1914 removed to Lakeland, where he has offices in the Marble Arcade. He is president of the Polk County Medical Association, counselor for the State Medical Association, and is president of the staff and chairman of the governing board of Morrell Memorial Hospital, Lakeland's $300,000 municipal hospital.

Dr. Watson is a Rotarian, Mason and Shriner, a member of both country clubs of Lakeland, and belongs to the Alpha Kappa Kappa Medical fraternity.

Dr. Watson and Lucille Kibler, daughter of D. B. Kibler, were married at Lakeland in 1920. They have one daughter, Becky Lu.

ELI M. WATTS

On arriving in Lakeland twelve years ago, E. M. Watts purchased the O'Neal Plumbing Company, which he has since owned and managed as E. M. Watts, Plumbing and Heating Contractor. This is the oldest firm in its line in the city.

Eli M. Watts was born in Louisville, Ky., in 1880, the son of Thomas Pixley and Ella (Beatty) Watts. His father was engaged in the plumbing business, and Mr. Watts attended the schools of Louisville until a change in the business plans of his father necessitated the removal of the family to Kansas City, Missouri. It was here that he met and married Lena Baker, whose energy and business ability have been of great assistance to him.

It was in 1916 that they moved to Lakeland. Among the jobs of which the firm may well be proud are Southern College, Lakeland Terrace hotel, Morrell Memorial Hospital, City Hall and Municipal Auditorium, Peninsular Telephone building, Marble Arcade, Spencer-Futch building and the Hartsell home. The Watts company has recently completed the plumbing and heating in the Carpenter's Home, the contract for this branch of work being $125,000.

Mr. Watts is an ardent golfer, and is a member of the Cleveland Heights Golf and Country Club, owning a handsome home in this desirable section.

He belongs to the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Masonic Order, Shrine, Elks, and Knights of Pythias.

HARRY WEAR, SR.

HARRY WEAR, SR., pioneer merchant of Bartow, died suddenly June 4, 1928, thus removing from the county one of its most loyal and progressive citizens.

A native of Murray, Kentucky, Mr. Wear came to Florida at an early age with his father, settling first at Ocala, then at Charlotte Harbor, Eagle Lake, and finally establishing his permanent home in Bartow.

Mr. Wear, in partnership with his brother, Hugh Wear, established a grocery business in Bartow in 1898, the former becoming sole owner several years ago. He was in this business for 28 years and during that time achieved an enviable reputation for fair dealing and conscientious service. He disposed of his grocery business three years ago, and since that time had been connected with his brothers, Hugh and Dan Wear, in real estate, and in looking after his large grove interests.

In addition to his business activities, Mr. Wear was deeply interested in civic matters, and gave freely of his time and money to bettering the community life.

Mr. Wear is survived by his wife, formerly Lillian J. Carter, of Atlanta, Georgia, whom he married in September, 1924, and by three children: Harry, Joe, and Mary. Mr. Wear was a Baptist, having joined that church two years ago. He was 54 years of age at the time of his death.

REID W. WEAVER

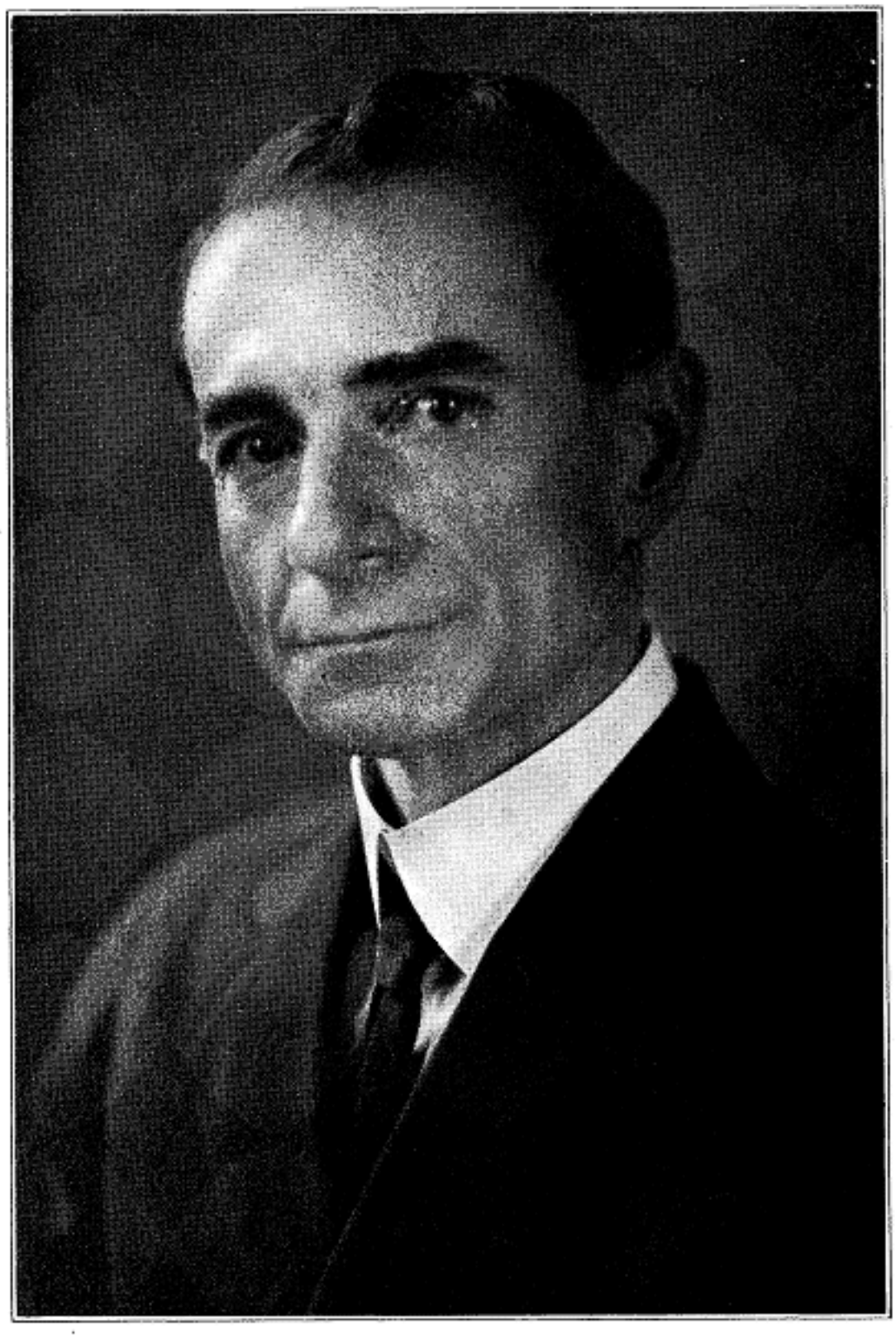
Perhaps the first thought that enters one's mind when recalling Reid Weaver is the memory of a man working early and late, conscientiously striving to give better service to his hundreds of patrons, and succeeding in that effort to the extent of building up one of the largest concerns of its kind in the State.

Mr. Weaver was born in Audrian County, Missouri, October 10, 1877, the son of George and Margaret (Needham) Weaver. The family removed to Florida in 1881, settling at Eustis, and later Mr. Weaver came to Lakeland, locating there in 1904.

It was at that time that he established the Lakeland Steam Laundry. The work was done by Mr. Weaver and two assistants in those early days, and the business was housed in a small wooden structure on West Main street. By working day and night, keeping in the closest personal touch with every detail, and by being scrupulously honest in every dealing he had with the public, he built the business up to splendid proportions. Before his death, in 1926, Mr. Weaver achieved one of his life ambitions—seeing his business housed in its present handsome building on the north shore of Lake Mirror with a complete equipment throughout of the most modern and up-to-date machinery.

Mr. Weaver was public-spirited in every sense of the word. Whether the call was for civic improvement, for funds for the needy, or for time in working for any of those things looking toward the civic and moral betterment of the community, he could be counted upon to give generously. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and a deacon in the Presbyterian church.

He was married twice, his first wife, Annie Tucker, daughter of the late Judge Eppes Tucker, died, leaving one daughter, Mary, wife of Kenneth M. Smith. He



R. N. Neave

was later married to Beulah Rose Griffin, and one son, Reid, Jr., was born to this union.

Shortly before Mr. Weaver's death, which occurred in Lakeland July 8, 1926, he completed a magnificent home on South Florida avenue, which is one of the show places of the city.

BENJAMIN HARRISON WEBSTER

BENJAMIN HARRISON WEBSTER, a native of this county, one of the younger members of the bar, was born at Pebbledale, July 19, 1895. He is a son of Edgar E., now deceased, and Lucia Mabel Webster, now living at Bartow, who came to Polk County 38 years ago from Minnesota, settled near what later became the town of Mulberry, was one of the founders of this town, and deeply interested in promoting education, good roads and schools.

Benjamin Webster is the youngest of seven children; he attended and graduated from Summerlin Institute at Bartow and graduated in law from Stetson University. He practiced at Bunnell from 1918 until 1921, when he opened offices at Bartow, maintaining an independent practice, and has been admitted to the State and Federal courts. He served as city attorney for Bunnell and was treasurer of the Bunnell Drainage District.

Mr. Webster is secretary and treasurer of the Bartow and Alturas National Farm Loan Associations, and was one of the founders of the Polk County Building and Loan Association of Bartow.

Mr. Webster belongs to the Blue Lodge, Royal Arch and Knights Templars, of the Masonic Order, and the Phi Alpha Delta College fraternity, and is a member of the Christian church. He was married at Bartow, June 23, 1924, to Gladys M. Howell, formerly of Keensburg, Ill.

His brothers and sisters are, Arthur L. Webster, county surveyor of Dupage County, who is a past president of the Illinois Society of Engineers; Clara M. Brown, Bartow, Fla.; Herbert W. Webster, and Lucie B. Getlinger, of Wheaton, Ill.; E. E. Webster, Jr., realtor of Glenellyn, Ill., and Lieutenant Lewis S. Webster, born in Lakeland, who was an army pilot in the first cross-country airplane race from Mineola, N. Y., to San Francisco, Calif., and came out in fifth place; now at Langley Field, Va.

CLARKE BANKSTON WEEKS

DR. C. B. WEEKS was born in Levy county, this state, October 21, 1887, the son of Wallace William and Martha Penelope (Colson) Weeks. Both were native Floridians. His earlier ancestors were from Scotland, and were among the early settlers of South Carolina.

C. B. Weeks attended the New Orleans Dental College, and received his degree in 1913 from the Atlanta Dental College. He practiced four years at Palmetto, and at the outbreak of the World War enlisted in the Dental Corps, 31st Division, holding the rank of First Lieutenant. The following year he saw service overseas, and was promoted to captaincy; in 1919 was made a Major. He is an active member of the American Legion and 40 and 8.

Dr. Weeks came to Lakeland, August 12, 1919, and established his office in the Spencer-Futch building. He does a general practice, giving especial attention

to operative dentistry. He is President of the Lakeland Dental Society, and a member of the American, Florida State, and West Coast District Dental Associations.

Dr. Weeks was married to Clara Bell Barber in December, 1917, at Atlanta, Georgia. They have four children, Clarke Bankston, Jr., Jack, Jane, and Ann. Dr. Weeks belongs to the Baptist church, as does his wife, who is a leader in Sunday school work.

MAY PAINE WHEELER

MAY PAINE WHEELER, of the Wheeler Progressive Studios, Lakeland, was born in Standish, Maine, a few miles out from Portland, and is a representative of an old and distinguished New England family.

Mrs. Wheeler is recognized throughout this section as an unusually talented musician.

When a child her parents moved to a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts, there placing their only daughter under the best masters of the city. Her life has been spent in the realm of music, living in the atmosphere of musical culture offered by the wonderful Boston Symphony Orchestra, Grand Opera and musical organizations. Mrs. Wheeler has continued her study of music with several large colleges and conservatories of America—Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.; Philadelphia Conservatory of Music; New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, Massachusetts, and Boston University.

She has been organist in several large churches in the suburbs of Boston and a teacher of note.

Early in 1917 Mrs. Wheeler came to Florida and as Supervisor of Music in Public Schools, during the World War, assisted in Community singing. In 1919 Mrs. Wheeler removed to Lakeland and for a time gave lessons on piano at her home. Later she established the "Wheeler Progressive Studios," which occupy the third floor of the Peninsular Telephone Building.

Associated with her are other artists including Fanny Painter Smoyer, Voice; Marian Peck Thomas, Violin; Rosa Nell Alderman, Irene Sammons, Piano, and John Robson, Orchestral Instruments.

Mrs. Wheeler is a member of American Guild of Organists, the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Tuesday Music Club and the Chamber of Commerce. At the time of printing this article she is Organist of the First Christian Church, having a large, three-manuel Möller Organ.

DR. SARAH ELIZABETH WHEELER

For nearly nineteen years Dr. Sarah Wheeler has been recognized as one of Lakeland's best citizens—a leader in her profession, hundreds of patients to sing her praise for relief rendered, and in matters of a civic nature, looking to the betterment of conditions and the upbuilding of her adopted city, Dr. Wheeler has always been found with her shoulder to the wheel.

A Kentuckian by birth, born at Russellville, Dr. Wheeler's parents were Thomas and Sarah Virginia (Browning) Wheeler. Educated in the public schools of Lewisburg and in private schools of Russellville, Ky., Dr. Wheeler in 1904 graduated from the Southern School of Osteopathy at Franklin, Kentucky.

After practicing her profession at Winchester, Tennessee, for five years, Dr. Wheeler came to Florida in 1919, establishing an office at Lakeland, since which time she has been unusually successful, not only in her profession but in the accumulation of splendid property in various sections of the city. Her reputation as a skilled osteopath has drawn patronage from a wide territory, and the enviable success she has attained has been in every way merited.

Dr. Wheeler is president of the Ridge Osteopathic Association; is a life member of the Sorosis Club; a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club; a member of the Woman's Club and a member of the Baptist church.

HENRY PASCO WHIDDEN

HENRY PASCO WHIDDEN was born in Bartow, September 17, 1888, the son of W. J. J. and Lillie (Wingate) Whidden, pioneer residents of the county. On his father's side he is of English descent, while his mother's ancestors were from Germany, early settling in North Carolina. The Whidden family were among the earliest settlers of Polk County, and Mr. Whidden's great-grandfather built the first school house in the county.

H. P. Whidden attended Summerlin Institute, and at the age of fifteen years worked for a local undertaking establishment, subsequently moving to Jacksonville, where he was connected with the Clark Undertaking Company. He returned to Bartow and for thirteen years was manager of the shoe department of the C. E. Earnest store. He resigned this position to enter the Cincinnati College of Embalmers, and upon his graduation in 1924 established his own company at Bartow. In his work he is ably assisted by his wife, who, before their marriage October 6, 1914, was Maude Miller Walters, of Blanche, North Carolina.

Mr. Whidden was quite active in World War activities, being a leader in Y. M. C. A. drives and was a member of the Home Guards. He is a Methodist. a Rotarian, and fraternally is allied with the Masons and Knights of Pythias, having held all the chairs in the latter lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Whidden have four children: Elizabeth Ann, James Ferdinand, Mary Clarice and Henry Pasco, Jr.

A. H. WILDER

A. H. WILDER, sheriff of Polk County, was born nine miles north of where Lakeland now stands, in June, 1873. He is a son of W. W. and Minnie L. Wilder, Georgians, who early settled in this county.

Mr. Wilder attended the local schools, and in his early manhood was a farmer, specializing in growing strawberries. For many years he conducted a livery stable at Lakeland, but with the general use of automobiles, this business became unprofitable, and he sold out, removing to Bartow.

Mr. Wilder worked with the late John Logan, former sheriff, as deputy, and for four years conducted a life insurance business. He was elected sheriff of the county in 1924.

Mr. Wilder is a member of the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias.

He was married to Ruth Sloan. Four children were born to this union: Clarence (deceased), Vivian, Edith and Grace.

BRADFORD G. WILLIAMS

BRADFORD G. WILLIAMS was born at Gueda Springs, Kansas, September 13, 1888, the son of H. B. and Nora (Hart) Williams. His education was received in the public schools of Richmond, Indiana, where his family removed, in Marist College at Atlanta, Georgia, and in Stetson University. He was admitted to the bar of Florida by examination before the supreme court in 1913.

At Ocala, Mr. Williams was connected with the law firm of Spencer & Spencer for a period of one year, resigning to become associate editor of the *American Co-operative Journal,* Chicago, Illinois. Thereafter, he re-entered the legal profession at Albuquerque, New Mexico, from which point he secured induction in 1917 into the United States Army. During his term of service, he held assignments at Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico, in the U. S. Army Base at El Paso, Texas, and under the Port Utilities Officer for New York, including positions as transport quartermaster for the U. S. A. C. T. Franklin and as property officer at Bush Terminal, Brooklyn.

Returning to Florida after the conclusion of the war, Mr. Williams first entered the practice of law at Dade City with Major R. B. Sturkie as Sturkie & Williams, later moving to Lakeland where he was associated with Edwin Spencer, Jr., until the latter's death. He has been for several years, and is now, maintaining an extensive law business on his own account with offices in the Stockton Building, Lakeland.

Mr. Williams is president of the Lakeland Community Players, a group comprising a part of the Little Theatre movement. He is also a member of the local, State and National Bar Associations. He was married in St. Augustine, October 31, 1927, to Mildred Joyce DeRyn of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mrs. Williams, whose ancestors were from Alsace-Lorraine, is a professional dancer and a member of the Dancing Masters' Association of America.

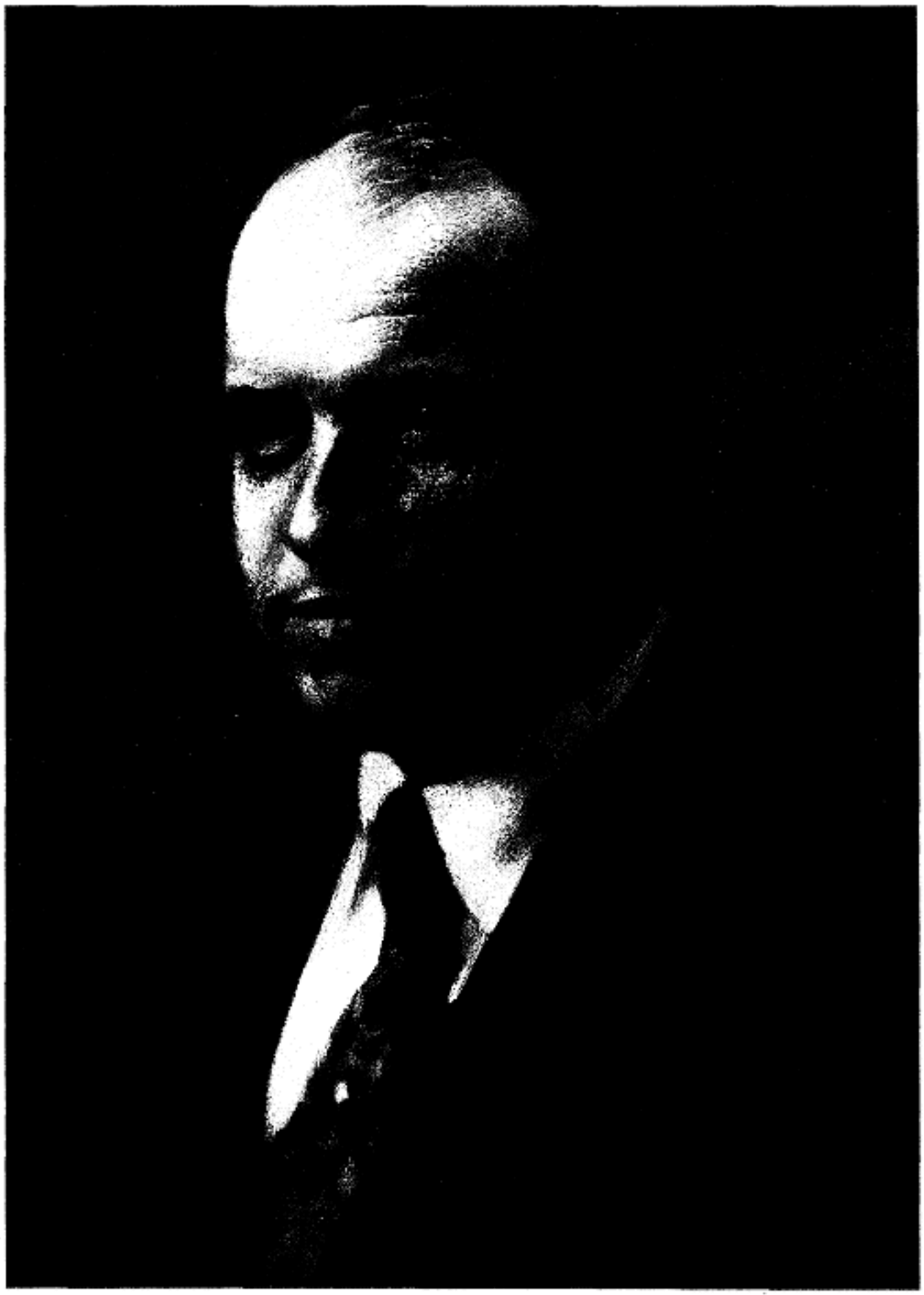
CHARLES H. WILLIAMS

CHARLES H. WILLIAMS was born at Harvell, Illinois, the son of Josiah and Mary E. (Ash) Williams. His father was a veteran of the Civil War, serving in the Union army as a member of an Illinois regiment.

Mr. Williams was educated in the schools of Kansas, to which State his parents removed when he was a small lad. He graduated from the Kansas State Normal School, and taught for a number of years, being Superintendent of several schools in that State. He was also in the publishing business in Kansas City prior to coming to Florida in 1913, at which time he chose Lakeland as the city of his adoption.

For two years after his arrival in Lakeland Mr. Williams was with the First National Bank as Publicity Director. Being an expert accountant Mr. Williams established the Williams Audit Company in 1916, which has a large clientele. He has done much municipal auditing for Lakeland and for other towns in the State, his reputation making him much in demand.

Mr. Williams is a prominent Rotarian, being Past President of the Lakeland Club and for several years its secretary. He has participated in the organization of a number of clubs in this district. He is a member of the Chamber of Com-



Theodor Wiesengrund

merce, the Elks, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is also a member of the Florida Institute of Accountants.

Mr. Williams was married March 4, 1890, to Marian A. Cozad, of Altamont, Kansas. They have two children: I. Dale and Hazel, (Mrs. Leon Howe, of Miami).

GEORGE L. WILLIAMS

GEORGE L. WILLIAMS, vice-president and general manager of the Polk Bond and Mortgage Company, which has its offices in Lakeland, was born in Carroll County, Georgia, January 29, 1888. He is a son of Rev. Owen O. and Georgia Williams, the former, who died in 1927, was, for forty years, a beloved minister of the Baptist church.

George L. Williams came to Lakeland in January, 1926, to assume charge of the Polk Bond and Mortgage Company. He has been instrumental in securing from northern capitalists large sums of money for loans in this section, and under his management this company has enjoyed a flourishing business.

Mr. Williams attended school at Douglasville, Georgia, and at the age of 20 years was cashier of a bank at Metter, Georgia, gaining the distinction of being the youngest cashier in that State. Later he was made President of the bank, and he also engaged in the mortgage and real estate business. He handled loans for the Penn Mutual Insurance Company, and made a wonderful record in this connection. Mr. Williams has made a close study of the Federal Reserve System, and when the Federal Reserve bank was dedicated in Atlanta he was honored by the Governor by representing the State at the ceremony.

Mr. Williams inaugurated a new era in farming methods in southeast Georgia by raising tobacco. This crop took the place of cotton which was destroyed by the boll weevil. Mr. Williams was mayor of his home city for many years, and is vice-president and a director of the Bank of Candler County, Georgia.

He served for seven years as president of the Augusta-Florida Highway Association which assisted in obtaining federal aid for the construction of the first direct highway from Augusta to Florida, saving over one hundred miles in distance by automobile travel from the northeast to Florida, and which organization later developed into a national organization composed of representative men from each state from Pennsylvania to Florida and has been instrumental in obtaining several millions of dollars federal and state aid for the building of a main highway from Pennsylvania to Florida. On a recent trip to Washington, D. C., Mr. Williams drove his car safely at fifty miles per hour over a road that some ten years before on a preliminary survey he piloted a party of engineers at the rate of five to ten miles per hour.

Mr. Williams is an active member of the Kiwanis Club. He was formerly district governor of Georgia and has membership in the Lakeland Club. He is a Mason and teacher of the Bible class of the Baptist church.

He was married in Georgia to Maude Mercer and they have two children: Christine and George L., Jr.

JOHN A. WILLIAMS

To establish a business on a firm basis, and see it grow and prosper from the start, has been the experience of John A. Williams, for several years sole owner of the Polk County Baking Co.

Mr. Williams, who was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, came to Lakeland in 1921, purchasing the Puritan Bakery from E. W. Rugg, changing the name of the concern in 1924 to the Polk County Baking Company. Previously to coming to Lakeland Mr. Williams had been a resident of Miami for 15 years.

Mr. Williams has the distinction of having the largest bakery in Polk county, having built an entire new plant three years ago, the business being both wholesale and retail. Besides taking care of the large territory within the county, the firm daily distributes large quantities of bread to Arcadia, Sebring, Wauchula, Brooksville and other South Florida points, it requiring nine trucks and two automobiles to care for their large trade.

It was a matter of great pride to Mr. Williams, when in January, 1928, his bakery was awarded Honorable Mention by the Quality Bakers of America for the best bread furnished by a member of this organization comprised of 125 of the leading bakeries of the country.

The plant of the Polk County Baking Company was recently rebuilt at a cost of $30,000, one of the various items of equipment being a $17,000 oven.

Mr. Williams recently sold a one-half interest in the bakery to E. E. Kelley, Jr., and the firm has been incorporated with E. E. Kelley, Jr., president and general manager; D. C. Williams, vice-president; and J. A. Williams, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams have one son, John Cole Williams, now a student at Riverside Military Academy, Gainesville, Ga.

WALTER R. WILLIAMS

WALTER R. WILLIAMS, progressive young business man of Lakeland, was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, November 6, 1889, the son of John C. and Lillian M. (Boyce) Williams. He is of French and Dutch descent on his maternal side, and his paternal ancestors were from Wales, the former being pioneers of Iowa and the latter of Illinois. His grandfathers were veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Mr. Williams is a graduate of Penn College (Quaker) and the Oskaloosa Business college. He came to Lakeland in 1914, but prior to that time was with the Southern Land and Investment Company at Citrus Center, Florida. A diversity of occupations have claimed Mr. Williams' attention from time to time, having been engaged in the sawmill business, real estate, and live stock, having bought and sold horses and cattle, and is a breeder of Black Angus cattle.

At the present time Mr. Williams is general manager of the Lakeland Cold Storage Company, of which he is a large stockholder. This is the only plant of the kind in Lakeland, all meats offered for sale in the city being pre-cooled therein for 48 hours, after being duly inspected by city inspectors. The first unit of the

plant has met with such success that the company is planning to build additional units for the handling of fresh vegetables, etc.

Mr. Williams, in addition to his business interests, is an active civic worker, is a member of the American Legion, the Episcopal church and the Elks. He is a musician of ability and was for some time director of the American Legion Band of Lakeland. During the World War he served as band director of the 306th Engineers of the 81st Division, eleven months of the time being spent overseas.

Mr. Williams was married April 8, 1925, to Juliet Ward, of Ocala, Florida.

BRADLEY C. WILSON

BRADLEY WILSON, who was born at Fort Meade, January 1, 1884, is a son of the late Charles C. and Helen M. Wilson and is a successful lawyer of Bartow, practicing as the partner of Senator John J. Swearingen. During the World War he saw service in France as a second lieutenant with the Quartermaster's Corps, 348th Labor Battalion.

Mr. Wilson received his higher education at the University of Florida, and graduated in law in 1915. He began practicing with the firm of Wilson and Swearingen, which was founded in 1907 by John J. Swearingen and the late T. L. Wilson. A few months after his graduation he was received into partnership. The firm is legal adviser for numerous banking institutions, phosphate companies and other corporations.

He is a member of the American, State and County Bar Associations and the Kiwanis Club. Fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic order, Shrine, Sigma Alpha Epsilon college fraternity and Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Delta Phi legal fraternities.

Mr. Wilson and Edna Boyd were married at Bartow April 7, 1917, and they have one child, Edna Earle.

BENJAMIN F. WILSON

BENJAMIN F. WILSON, one of Lakeland's pioneer merchants, was born in Tennessee, March 22, 1862, the son of Thomas and Margaret (McKinnon) Wilson. His paternal ancestors came from Ireland and settled in North Carolina, his maternal ancestors from Scotland, settling in the same State. His parents moved from North Carolina to Tennessee in their youth.

After gaining his education in the schools of his native State, Mr. Wilson came to Florida in 1884, settling in Hernando County. He later engaged in the mercantile business in Inverness, moving to Lakeland in 1901.

Mr. Wilson was a charter member of the Jackson-Wilson Company, one of the city's oldest hardware firms, continuing with the concern until 1922 when he sold his interest and in 1923 established his own business known as the Lakeland Hardware Co., his partner in this enterprise being P. A. Graham.

Mr. Wilson always took an active part in civic affairs, particularly when Lakeland was beginning to develop from a village into a real city. He served as member of the local school board, was a member of the city charter board, a charter member of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, and a director of that organization for many years. He is a Mason, a Woodman, and a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

Mr. Wilson was married to Emma Hiers, of Inverness. They have four children: Clifford R., Walton E., Evelyn and Wayne, and Mrs. Alice D. Self, of Dixon, Tennessee, who is a daughter of Mr. Wilson's by a former marriage.

CHARLES COOPER WILSON

CHARLES COOPER WILSON, formerly of Bartow, Polk County, Florida, was born in this county, what was at that time Hillsborough County, December 28, 1858, one of the best known and influential men of the county. He was educated in the common schools of Polk County; was a graduate of the Law Department of Washington & Lee University, and also took a special course at the University of Virginia, and admitted to the Bar in 1882.

He was a son of the late James T. Wilson, a prosperous farmer, who served as Polk County's first county judge.

Charles C. Wilson was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1885 and helped prepare and frame our present Constitution.

He served as prosecuting attorney of Polk County in 1893, being the first one in this county to serve in that capacity. He was elected in 1894 and retired without offering himself for re-election.

In 1901 he was elected State Senator; and having served one term, on account of ill health, did not offer himself for re-election.

He began the practice of law in Fort Meade, Florida, and in 1887 moved to Bartow, associating with himself his brother, the late T. L. Wilson, establishing the firm of Wilson & Wilson.

He was married in 1883 at Bethel, Florida, to Miss Helen M. Johnson. The following children were born of this union: Bradley C. Wilson, Milton D. Wilson and Maurice J. Wilson, all practicing attorneys at Bartow, Florida; Tommie Lee Wiggins, the wife of Judge C. M. Wiggins, and Annie Laura Hatton, wife of R. C. Hatton, both residing in Bartow, Florida.

Mr. Wilson died at San Francisco, California, in 1907, where he had gone in search of health.

GUY HAWKINS WILSON

GUY HAWKINS WILSON was born in Baltimore, Maryland, July 19, 1893, the son of J. Edgar and Lillian (Townsend) Wilson. His father is a brilliant and much beloved Methodist minister, a member of the Florida Conference for many years, editor of the *Florida Christian Advocate* for 13 years.

Mr. Wilson was educated in the public schools of Baltimore, Jacksonville and Tallahassee, and graduated with a B. S. degree from the University of Florida.

For several years he was with the International Harvester Company as salesman, and was later with the Miller-Lenfesty Supply Company, of Tampa.

Mr. Wilson came to Lakeland in 1923 as manager of the Southern Printing Company, in which business he and his father have a large financial interest. This plant does a general line of commercial printing, and enjoys a splendid business.

He is a member of the Exchange Club, the American Legion and the Methodist church. During the World War Mr. Wilson was a Second Lieutenant, specializing

in Aerial observation in France and various parts of the United States, serving his country gallantly and well for 27 months.

Mr. Wilson was married April 9, 1925, at Lakeland to Susie Maria Jones, and they have one daughter, Mary Cummings.

J. A. WILSON

J. A. WILSON, the oldest settler in Homeland, and one of the county's most respected and esteemed citizens, was born in Thomas County, Georgia, December 12, 1857, the son of Francis M. and Nancy J. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson came to Florida with his mother in 1873, settling at Bethel, now Homeland, where his mother bought an orange grove. When he became eighteen years of age, Mr. Wilson bought his own property, set out a grove and built him a home, in which he has lived for the past forty years.

Mr. Wilson accumulated a large amount of property in that section of Polk County, but has sold the major portion of his holdings, and has about retired from active business life. He has been manager of the Homeland Packing House since it was organized.

Mr. Wilson is a devout member of the Methodist church and for the past fifty years has been a Steward in the church at Homeland. Fraternally, he is a Mason.

Mr. Wilson married Sally C. Whitfield, of Fort Meade. Six children were born to this union: Emory P., of Hollywood, Fla., M. D., of Gainesville, Claude E., deceased, Mrs. Eva Mitchell, of Sebring, Fla., Norton W., of Miami, and Paul E., of Fort Meade.

JOHN F. WILSON, M. D.

JOHN F. WILSON, second oldest practicing physician of Lakeland at this time, was born in Anderson, South Carolina, September 28, 1878, the son of John F. and Frances Murray Wilson. The former was a prominent merchant and banker of that city.

Dr. Wilson received his M. D. degree in 1905 at the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, and for two years thereafter did hospital work in Charleston.

He removed to Lakeland in 1907, and began practice there, giving special attention to surgery and to the diseases of children. He is ex-city health officer and is local surgeon for the Atlantic Coast Line railway.

During the World War Dr. Wilson served as a captain in the Medical Corps, being stationed in Atlanta, and later in Baltimore.

He is a member of the American, Southern, State and County Medical Associations, and fraternally belongs to the Masonic Order and the Shrine. He is a faithful member of the Methodist church, and has belonged to the Chamber of Commerce since its organization.

Dr. Wilson was married in Tampa, October 12, 1910, to Martha Cason, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Cason, and they have one child, Frances Murray Wilson, a graduate this year of the Lakeland High School.

JOHN R. WILSON

J. R. WILSON, insurance broker of Haines City, is a native North Carolinian, born at Asheville.

Mr. Wilson established his home in this county in 1922, for ten years prior to that time having been a traveling salesman. He entered the real estate business at Haines City, and in 1925 purchased the F. H. and B. Insurance Agency, Incorporated, the oldest and largest business of the kind in the city. He is sole owner of the establishment, which represents the Hartford, Home, Aetna, Liverpool, London and Globe and fifteen other large companies.

He is a Rotarian, member of the Chamber of Commerce, and fraternally is a Mason, being past master of the Haines City lodge, and a Presbyterian.

He was married in East Orange, New Jersey, to Haven de Yarman, and they have one son, J. R., II.

MELVILLE A. WILSON

MELVILLE A. WILSON, life-long resident of Polk County, was born at Homeland, July 19, 1878, the son of James T. and Adeline Wilson. He was educated in the school at Homeland and at Summerlin Institute, then attended the South Florida Military Academy and received his law degree at Washington & Lee University, in 1902.

Mr. Wilson started the practice of his profession in Bartow and remained there until 1911, when he removed to Fort Meade, where he opened offices. Later, he formed a partnership with Nat Patterson, the firm name being Patterson & Wilson, and they have been successful to a marked degree.

Mr. Wilson was mayor of Bartow one year, and has held the same office consecutively in Fort Meade five years, during which time considerable municipal improvements have been made, including the laying of streets and sidewalks. He is a member of the County and State Bar Associations, and attends the Baptist church.

He spent ten months in Cuba during the Spanish-American War as a Second Lieutenant in the Third United States Volunteer Infantry, known as "Ray's Immunes," being only 19 years of age, and probably the youngest commissioned officer in the entire service. A short time after being mustered out of service, President McKinley commissioned him First Lieutenant for Philippine service, which appointment he declined.

Mr. Wilson and Olive A. Du Rant were married in Fort Meade, September 16, 1916.

MILTON D. WILSON

MILTON D. WILSON, senior member of Wilson & Wilson, the oldest law firm of Bartow, is a native of this county, born at Fort Meade July 23, 1886. He is a son of Charles C. and Helen M. Wilson, both of whom were born in Florida.

He attended the schools of the county, including the South Florida Military College, and received his law degree at the University of Virginia, graduating in 1909.

Since his graduation, Mr. Wilson has practiced in his home city, and recently his brother, Maurice J., became his law partner, the firm, which was established by their father, again being known as Wilson & Wilson.

M. D. Wilson has served the county in the capacity of county attorney, and has held other offices in political and civic circles. He is a member of the State and County Bar Associations, and the Delta Chi college fraternity.

He was married at Bartow, Fla., November 18, 1914, to Daphne Lewis and they have two daughters, Daphne Laura and Helen Isabelle.

SAMUEL M. WILSON

SAMUEL M. WILSON, one of Bartow's most highly respected citizens, was born at Bethel, now Homeland, this county, August 16, 1872, the son of James T. and Adeline Wilson.

With his education completed, Mr. Wilson engaged in the drug business in Bartow, establishing the Wilson Drug store, which he successfully conducted for 17 years. He disposed of this business on his appointment as Postmaster of Bartow, serving under the Wilson administration from 1913 to 1921.

When he severed his connection with the government, his thoughts again turned to the drug business and he acquired the Corner Drug Store at Bartow, which he has operated for the past six years.

Mr. Wilson owns several fine orange groves in Polk County, these being located in the Eagle Lake section. He has other valuable property, and has from time to time bought and sold various tracts, specializing on grove property.

In any worthy undertaking looking to the civic or moral advancement of his community or the county, Mr. Wilson can always be depended upon to be a leading factor. He is a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Wilson was married August 12th, 1894, to Mamie Keller, of Bartow. They have four children: Harold L., of Bartow, who is engaged in the insurance business; Mrs. H. W. Gallaher, of Tampa; Mrs. W. J. Ellison, of Bartow, and Dorothy.

THOMAS LEE WILSON

T. L. WILSON, long one of Polk County's outstanding financial figures, and acknowledged to be the leading lawyer of South Florida over a long period of years, was born at Homeland, this county, January 30, 1863, and was therefore 64 years of age at the time of his death, which occurred in Atlanta, Georgia, October 17, 1927.

Col. Wilson's long and successful career began when, as a young man of eighteen years, engaged in the cattle business in the southern part of the State, he decided that he would achieve greater things in life than would be his lot should he continue in the avocation he was then engaged. He decided to become a lawyer, and selling his herds, he went to Lexington, Virginia, where he entered Washington & Lee University, graduating therefrom with an LL.B. degree before he was 21 years of age.

Returning to Florida, it was necessary for the Legislature to pass a special act to enable him to practice in the State, not being yet of age. This done, he opened offices in Fort Meade, later establishing his office in Bartow, where he and his brother, the late C. C. Wilson, formed a partnership. Though the senior mem-

bers of this firm have been removed from this earthly sphere, the junior members, John Swearingen and Bradley C. Wilson, the latter a son of C. C. Wilson, maintain the office to the same high degree as its clients have grown to expect, through years of efficient service.

Practicing in both the criminal and civil courts, Col. Wilson built up a large practice, and acquiring valuable real estate holdings, comprising both phosphate and citrus lands, he was enabled to amass a large fortune—conservatively estimated at the time of his death to be over one million dollars. He was a large stockholder in banks at Lakeland, Winter Haven, Mulberry, Frostproof and Sebring, and for the last sixteen years of his life was president of the Polk County National Bank, of Bartow.

While devoting himself largely to business affairs, Col. Wilson was active in church affairs, and was a steward of the Methodist church of Bartow for many years prior to his death. In his passing, Polk County lost one of her outstanding citizens, whose influence will long be felt, and whose example in the business world might well be emulated. His energy, perseverance, and attention to even minute details of any matter entrusted to him, coupled with a brilliant mind, enabled him to carve a place for himself in the county that any man might envy.

Col. Wilson was married August 4, 1892, to Cora L. Hough. One daughter was born to this union, Tommie Lee, now Mrs. E. B. Hatton, of Bartow.

ERNEST C. WIMBERLY

E. C. WIMBERLY, one of the leading lawyers of Winter Haven and municipal judge of that city, is a native of the State of Georgia, born at Lyons, November 5, 1899. He is a son of E. M. and Mamie Wimberly; the latter's father was a veteran of the Civil War, serving in the Confederate army as a captain when only 17 years of age.

Judge Wimberly is a graduate of the University of Georgia, receiving the degree of A.B. in 1920 and LL.B in 1920 from the Atlanta Law School. At the age of 18 years he was elected a member of the Georgia Legislature, thereby gaining the distinction of being the youngest citizen in the State ever chosen for that honor.

He established his home at Winter Haven September 1, 1925, and, in partnership with Asbury Summerlin, opened offices for the practice of his profession. He was elected municipal judge in 1926.

Judge Wimberly served as first lieutenant of the 121st Infantry of Georgia during the World War. He is identified with the American Legion, Exchange Club and Masonic order, and worships at the Methodist church.

He was married to Alma Buchanan at Lakeland, December 25, 1924.

ERLE L. WIRT

ERLE L. WIRT, one of the leading bankers and citrus growers of the State, is a native of Indiana, but has made his home in Bartow since early childhood. He was born in Elkhart County, January 20, 1879, the son of J. L. and Josephine Wirt, and with his parents came to Polk County in 1884, his father being one of the early merchants of this section.

Mr. Wirt was educated at the South Florida Military Institute, and at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War immediately enlisted as a member of Company C of the Third Florida Volunteers, and saw a year's service in Cuba, during this time being promoted to First Sergeant.

Upon his return to Bartow he was connected with his father for a short time in the mercantile business, but left this line of work to go into the Polk County National Bank, the second oldest financial institution in South Florida. Mr. Wirt began at the bottom of the ladder, and was steadily promoted, becoming president of the bank in November, 1927. He is, in point of service, the oldest banker in the county. The Polk County National is one of the fastest growing banks in the State, deposits increasing from $133,000 in 1899 to $2,200,000, in 1928.

Mr. Wirt assisted in the organization of the State Banks of Frostproof and Babson Park, and has been president of both; he has been a member of the board of directors of five other banks, but has been forced to resign on account of ill health. He is also vice-president of the Polk County Abstract Co.

Mr. Wirt owns a number of valuable groves at Frostproof and Babson Park, and was actively connected with the organization of the sub-exchanges in those places. He also holds the office of president and chairman of the board in the Florida Citrus Exchange.

Mr. Wirt is recognized as the leading Mason of Bartow, having served as Grand Master of Knight Templars of Florida, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida, Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Florida, Potentate of Egypt Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., as well as having been active in all of the local Masonic bodies.

He was married at Gainesville to Elizabeth B. Blanding, and they have three children: Erle L., Jr., aged 13, Beth, 10, and Emma, 8, all of whom were born in Bartow.

WILLIAM WOLF

WILLIAM WOLF, mayor of Eagle Lake and an important factor in the citrus industry of the county, has shown his faith in the soundness of this section by investing heavily in groves and business property.

A native of Chicago, Ill., born December 31, 1874, Mr. Wolf attended the schools of that city, and his first business experience was gained in the conduct of a large dairy. He disposed of that to engage in the transfer business, in which he was markedly successful, having handled 85 per cent of all flour used in Chicago the last year he was there.

Mr. Wolf removed to Eagle Lake in May, 1924. He owns nine groves in Eagle Lake and Frostproof, totaling 275 acres, all of which are in bearing trees. Several of these groves were purchased in the spring of 1928, and they occupy the greater part of his time and attention.

He has been mayor of Eagle Lake for two years. During this time all the city paving has been done, a new school building erected and other progressive steps taken to make this attractive community up-to-date in every sense of the word.

Mr. Wolf has spent $100,000 in building at Eagle Lake, two noteworthy prop-

erties owned by him being the Wolf building and his handsome residence on Lake McCloud.

He was married in Michigan to Lizzie Loetz, and they have three children, Floyd, Ralph and William. Mr. Wolf is active in Masonic work, including the Shrine.

J. E. WORTHINGTON

J. E. WORTHINGTON, editor and owner of the *Lake Wales Highlander*, is a newspaper man of wide experience, and has tried to exert an influence for good, both through the columns of his paper and by personal example.

He was born in Homer, Michigan, August 26, 1876, the son of Charles C. and Clara Belle Worthington. Upon his graduation from High School in 1893, he became associated with the *Homer Vidette,* later holding positions with the following Michigan publications: *Marshall News, Marshall Statesman, Battle Creek Moon,* and the *Grand Rapids Herald.* While with the last named paper, Mr. Worthington wrote political articles, attending five legislative sessions and the Michigan Constitutional Convention. He was campaign manager for Senator Burrows in 1910.

Mr. Worthington came to Florida in 1911 and for ten years thereafter made his home in Tampa, where he was with *The Times* as city editor and later as managing editor.

Late in the fall of 1920, Mr. Worthington purchased *The Highlander* from Harry M. Gann, and assumed active charge on Christmas day of that year. He has been successful in the management of this business. Among other ideas of his for the community good may be mentioned the plan to put membership in the Florida Citrus Exchange in 1924, known as the Lake Wales Plan.

Mr. Worthington was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1924, and while in Tampa was a member of the White Municipal Party Committee. He has large fraternal affiliations, including the Odd Fellows, of which he has twice been Noble Grand; Masonic Order, Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America.

He was the founder of the Lake Wales Rotary Club in 1926, and was its first president. A faithful member of the Presbyterian church, he is at this time Superintendent of the Sunday School, and gives much of his time to this work.

Mr. Worthington and Nelle B. Stauter were married at Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 10, 1910.

MRS. GEORGE M. WRIGHT

MRS. GEORGE M. WRIGHT, civic leader and prominent club woman of the State, was born in Winchester, Tennessee, the daughter of Charles Porter and Sue A. Baird. Her father was a physician and a dentist, and before coming to Florida was connected with the University of the South at Suwannee.

Mrs. Wright attended Mary Sharpe College at Winchester, and later graduated from Huntsville Female College, Huntsville, Alabama. After finishing college in Alabama Mrs. Wright visited her parents in this State, took a special course at Rollins College, Winter Park, after which she went to Chicago where she took

a business course at the Chicago Athenæum and remained in Chicago for several years.

In 1902 Mrs. Wright came to Lakeland as the bride of George M. Wright, now deceased, who was southern representative for a large coffee house, a fine gentleman and popular among a large circle of friends. He was a resident of Lakeland fourteen years, his death occurring in 1916.

During her residence of 26 years in Lakeland, Mrs. Wright has been a recognized leader in civic and club activities of all kinds. Her superior qualifications of leadership and her ability to cope with any situation easily and gracefully, yet firmly and satisfactorily, have gained for her a position in the community of which she has every reason to be proud.

Mrs. Wright is president of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Rose Keller Branch of the Florida Children's Home Society. She has three times been president of the Woman's Club of Lakeland, and six years ago organized the Sorosis Club, which organization owns one of the handsomest and best furnished club houses in the State. Mrs. Wright is a life member of the latter organization. For three years she served as State chairman of education for the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, and for two years was State chairman of Home Economics.

At the present time Mrs. Wright is devoting much of her attention to city beautification work, being chairman of the Beautification Committee of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce. She has superintended the planting of ornamentals, shrubs and flowers around Lakeland's fine municipal buildings, including the city hall, auditorium, and fire station, and is now completing the beautification work around Lake Mirror.

Mrs. Wright believes that all women should take an active part in duties of citizenship, and her individual efforts along these lines have been productive of splendid results, rendering her one well worthy of emulation.

During the World War Mrs. Wright was a member of the board of directors of the Red Cross, and was very active in securing funds for the various war drives. Under her direction, the Hostess House for officers at Dorr Field, Arcadia, was completed, and she opened the house and was its director until the soldiers were dismissed from the camp, and then she became director of the Hostess House at Carlstrom and remained there until this camp was closed.

Mrs. Wright is a large property owner, among her most valuable holdings being a frontage of 144 feet on South Tennessee avenue, on a portion of which the Wright building is located.

Mrs. Wright has one child, an adopted son, John Wright, whom she has reared from infancy.

E. H. YOUNGS, JR.

E. H. Youngs, Jr., one of Lakeland's most substantial citizens, was born on Mosella sugar plantation, near New Orleans, Louisiana, the son of E. H. Youngs and Mosella Turnage.

After graduating from Tulane University, New Orleans, in 1889, Mr. Youngs went to Texas same year; was with the Southern Pacific Railroad, with headquarters at Houston, Texas, until 1891 when he came to Florida. Going with the

J., T. & K. W. Railway at Sanford, and with the Plant System at Lakeland as freight and passenger agent in December, 1901, now the Atlantic Coast Line Railway. He left the railroad service in 1908, at which time he engaged in the ice business in Lakeland, building the Lakeland Ice Company plant, which he sold to the Southern Utilities Company in 1913 at a large figure. Since that time he has been in the real estate and loan business. Mr. Youngs owns much valuable property in Lakeland and Polk County.

He is a Mason and a Shriner and attends the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Youngs was married at Sanford December, 1893, to Millie Grether, of Dunkirk, N. Y. They have one daughter: Mildred (Mrs. Malcolm McMullen, of Lakeland), and one little granddaughter, Mildred McMullen, and grandson, Malcolm, Jr.

WILLIAM F. ZANDER

W. F. Zander, physician, developer and newspaper man, is a native of Ohio, but has made his home in this State since 1894.

His educational advantages were unusually good. On the completion of his medical course at Cleveland, he took post-graduate work, studying under noted doctors in Germany at the Halle Medical and Heidelberg universities.

Dr. Zander was the founder of the settlement, "Fredonia," located twelve miles southeast of Fort Meade. In 1907, he removed to Fort Meade, where he established *The Observer,* which he later sold. The paper changed hands several times, and was finally purchased by R. O. Meek, who consolidated it with *The Leader.*

Dr. Zander next engaged in the drug business, but disposed of this enterprise to devote a greater amount of time to his practice and to his grove interests. He has long been recognized as one of the outstanding physicians of the State, and in 1916 served as president of the Florida Eclectic Medical Association. He is also a member of the American National Association.

Dr. Zander was married in Ohio, to Josephine Herr, whose ancestors were from Switzerland. Mrs. Zander died at Fort Meade, January 18, 1925, leaving the following children: Frank W., of Okeechobee; Mrs. C. J. Wright, of Alturas; Mrs. Josephine E. Long, of Columbus, Ohio; Laura Martha, Jennie Florida and Frieda Anna, of Fort Meade; Harry, a disabled veteran of the World War, Fort Meade. Another daughter, Mrs. Rosalie Hariett Gibson, is deceased.

H. GRADY ZELLNER

H. GRADY ZELLNER was born at Floral City, Florida, March 30, 1891, the son of Millard Fillimore and Laura (Gammon) Zellner. His paternal ancestors were from Germany, and were among the pioneer builders of Georgia. His father was a Civil War veteran.

Mr. Zellner, who is president of the Zeltrocide Company at Lakeland, entered the fruit business when a mere lad, and at an early age was head buyer in New York for Olivet Bros. Leaving there, he was with the Citrus Exchange for four years in this State. He then organized the Zeltrocide Company, of which concern he is president and general manager.

Zeltrocide is a newly discovered preservative for fresh fruits and vegetables, invented and perfected by Mr. Zellner. It is a combination of chemicals in solution with which the fruit are treated during the washing and drying process in the packing house. In three years the business has grown to international proportions, the firm now doing business in Spain, Palestine, Australia and Sicily, as well as Texas, California, and Florida. The firm is said to have one of the best equipped laboratories in the South. Fruit treated with Zeltrocide has been shipped to China and England, reaching their destination in excellent condition.

Mr. Zellner is a Scottish Mason, a Shriner, an Elk and a member of the Christian church.

He was married at Bradenton, Florida, on March 2, 1914, to Fannie Turner Parrish. They have three children: Robert Earl, Frances Louise, and Margaret Parrish.